

# Liddy's Hour

## On Probation

Washington

G. Gordon Liddy's on-again, off-again punishment for contempt of Congress was on again yesterday — and then off again.

It lasted exactly one hour.

Liddy, the so-called silent man of Watergate, startled everyone Wednesday by appearing in a federal court to protest that he couldn't possibly abide by terms of a one-year probation that required him, among other things, not to associate with known criminals.

Because he's confined to the District of Columbia jail for other crimes, Liddy told U.S. District judge John H. Pratt, he lives with 700 such

chaps all the time.

Pratt — who had given Liddy a six-month suspended sentence plus the probation for the contempt conviction on May 10 — agreed and erased the probation.

But yesterday, Liddy and his lawyers and prosecutors trooped back into Pratt's court with another problem. The prosecutors pointed out that the law requires at least some probation if a sentence is suspended.

Pratt solved that one by ordering Liddy put on probation for one hour. It was all over by lunch.

"We've had a little problem with this sentencing," sighed a court spokesman.

*United Press*