

Break-Ins

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For CIA

Alleged

By Richard M. Cohen

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The lawyer for Watergate conspirators Barnard Baker and Eugenio Martinez revealed yesterday that the two had previously engaged in a series of illegal activities for the Central Intelligence Agency, including a "penetration" of the Radio City Music Hall by Barker in the mid-1960s.

The Radio City Music Hall entry, the lawyer said, was apparently a "CIA training session" to see if Barker could accomplish his mission satisfactorily. Other missions the lawyer said, included the burglary of the Miami home of a boat crew member who was making trips for the CIA to Cuba and a similar break-in of a Miami business office.

The lawyer, Daniel Schultz, revealed some of Barker's and Martinez past CIA escapades during opening arguments for their trial, along with former top presidential aide John D. Ehrlichman and Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy, on charges stemming from the 1971 break-in of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office.

A CIA spokesman said yesterday the agency would not comment on Schultz's statement because the matter is now before the court. "Our legal guys are very concerned about the propriety of this," the spokesman said.

Schultz refused to expand upon his courtroom remarks other than to say that additional details would be made public as the trial progressed.

Nevertheless, it was the second time in a week that a report of a CIA role in the Watergate affair has come to public attention.

Earlier this week, a Washington-based former private detective, Richard Bast, said former presidential aide Charles Colson suspected that the CIA planned both the Watergate break-in and the entry of Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office, and that President Nixon, to an extent, shared Colson's suspicions of the agency.

Bast said he interviewed Colson on two occasions before Colson was sentenced a week ago to a one-to-three-year jail term and a \$5,000 fine for attempting to influence the outcome of the Ellsberg trial

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by leaking derogatory information about Ellsberg to the press.

Colson, according to Bast, also said that Senate Watergate committee investigators were informed of the times and places of at least 300 other break-ins conducted by Martinez. Senate committee sources have denied they have such information.

Neither Barker nor Martinez has made any secret of their past work for the CIA, which the two have said was limited to operations against the regime of Fidel Castro in Cuba. Barker and Martinez also were among five men arrested in the Watergate offices of the Democratic National Committee and were subsequently convicted of burglary.

Barker, a bespectacled undercover operative, was born in Havana and grew up both in the United States and Cuba. He was a captain in World War II in the Army Air Corps and was shot down over Germany where he was held prisoner for 17 months. In the late 1950s, he joined the Castro guerilla movement but he became disillusioned and fled to Miami in 1959.

Thereafter, Barker worked against Castro and is said to have been one of the organizers of the Bay of Pigs invasion. From that time, until 1966, Barker worked for the CIA. Until his arrest at the Watergate, he ran a real estate agency in Miami.

Like Barker, Martinez originally worked for Castro but later turned against him. He,

top, participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion, later worked for the CIA and joined Barker's real estate firm as a salesman.

According to an informed source, Barker and Martinez met during the planning and execution of the Bay of Pigs invasion and later worked for the CIA in operations directed against the Castro regime. Martinez, according to the source, was the captain of a boat used by the CIA to ferry supplies and personnel to Cuba and to take refugees back to Florida. Martinez, according to this source, participated in occasional raids against the Castro regime.

In these capacities, the source said, Martinez engaged in the activities that Schultz's mentioned in court yesterday—destruction of foreign property, possession and distribution of firearms, and falsification of income tax returns to hide the CIA as a source of income.

As for Barker, his entry into the Radio City Music Hall, the

source said, was a CIA test to see if he could accomplish the mission successfully and retain details of what he had seen. The break-in site was the theater's "monitoring office", which contained closed-circuit television cameras. When Barker returned from his mission, he was debriefed to see if he had actually been in the room.

The source close to Barker said that Barker presumed the Radio City Music Hall break-in was a training operation because of the nature of the questioning he underwent upon his return.

The source said the illegal entry into the Miami home of a crew member of a boat used in forays against Cuba was ordered because the man was suspected of talking about the Cuban operations—"not keeping security." The other Miami break-in Schultz mentioned yesterday was also connected to the CIA's Cuban operations, the source said.

Barker, for one, has acknowledged his participation in anti-Castro activities, maintaining before the Senate Watergate Committee that he believed he Watergate break-in was ordered to determine if the Democrats were receiving money from the Castro regime.