

Gordon Liddy Freed on Bond After

By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy, who has spent more months behind bars than any other person charged with a Watergate-related crime, was released from jail yesterday to return to his wife and five children—at least temporarily—at their Oxon Hill home.

Liddy has been in various jails since his conviction in the original Watergate break-in case Jan. 30, 1973, spending most of that 21 months in the D.C. jail. He can remain free at least until the U.S. Court of Appeals issues its rulings on his convictions.

The 44-year-old former FBI agent and White House aide, who steadfastly has remained silent in the Watergate case

and just two weeks ago finished serving an 18-month contempt sentence for that silence before a grand jury, refused to comment yesterday on his release from prison.

Liddy had been jailed immediately after his conviction in the Watergate break-in case, and two days later U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica set a \$100,000 bond that Liddy was unable to meet.

On March 23, 1973, Judge Sirica sentenced Liddy to the longest term given any Watergate defendant—six years and eight months to 20 years in jail. He had begun that sentence when he refused to testify before a federal grand jury investigating the continuing Watergate cover-up in April, 1973.

At that point, Judge Sirica

imposed the 18-month contempt conviction, which was upheld on appeal last week.

Liddy since has been convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to testify before a congressional subcommittee, and civil rights conspiracy in the Ellsberg break-in case. The sentences in those cases were to run concurrently with the break-in sentence.

The completion of his contempt sentence made Liddy eligible once again for bond, pending appeal in the break-in and Ellsberg cases. His attorney, Peter Maroulis, filed a motion for the release last week and it was granted yesterday in a brief hearing before U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell.

21 Months in Jail

Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor Charles F. Breyer said the government had no objection to the release, and Judge Gesell set a bond of \$50,000, with a 10 per cent deposit. Maroulis told the judge that Liddy's mother, Maria Liddy of West Caldwell, N.J., would pay the \$500.