

Bernard Barker Says He Admires Jackson

By Douglas B. Feaver
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MIAMI, March 9—Bernard L. Barker, one of the five men wearing surgical gloves who was arrested in the Watergate June 17, 1972, showed up tonight at Sen. Henry M. Jackson's Florida election night party.

"I'm a great admirer of Scoop," said Barker. However, he said, he is a registered Republican and voted in the GOP primary today. He said his choice between President Ford and Ronald Reagan was "a military secret."

Barker, who said he is working for the city of Miami, said that the "1 year, 22 days and 2 hours" he spent in prison for his role in the Watergate break-in was "worth it" if "it was for the good of the country."

He said that he sent a get-well message to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica after Sirica's recent heart attack and that Sirica responded with a thank-you note.

"I think Judge Sirica is a man of great integrity," Barker said. "I like that little Italian."

Asked about former President Nixon's recent trip to China, Barker said: "I think Nixon was the architect of the greatest foreign policy breakthrough we've ever had" when he improved relations with China. "However, instead of remembering that, we talk about something else."

Barker said he plans to remain in the Miami area. "Washington's a place to keep away from," he said. "Cubans don't do very well up there."