

Espionage Possibility Probed In 2d Break-In at Watergate

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Metropolitan police said yesterday they were investigating a month-old burglary of a law firm associated with Democratic presidential candidate Hubert H. Humphrey, with the possibility that it may be linked to political espionage.

And, they said yesterday, four of the five men arrested in the bugging attempt at the Democratic National Committee headquarters Saturday morning were registered as guests at the Watergate Hotel on April 28, the same night that two other firms in the Watergate building were broken into. Police would not say which of the five men was not registered that date.

The firm of Freed, Frank, Harris, Shriver and Kampelman, located on the 10th floor of the Watergate Building, 2600 Virginia Ave. NW, was broken into on May 18, but officials of the firm did not report the incident to police until yesterday.

Police said there were similarities between that break-in and Saturday's break-in at the Democratic National Committee's headquarters on the sixth floor of the Watergate complex.

Five men, including the security coordinator for the Committee for the Reelection of the President were arrested Saturday in the Watergate offices of the Democratic committee. Police said the suspects were carrying electronic

surveillance equipment and cameras with attachments for copying documents.

A spokesman for the Freed law firm said yesterday that the burglary was not immediately reported to police because nothing appeared to be missing, and employees did not associate the incident with political espionage until disclosure of Saturday's break-in.

The law firm's members include Patricia Harris, chairman of the credentials committee for the Democratic National Convention, Sargent Shriver, former director of the Peace Corps and a Democratic political adviser during the Kennedy administration, and Max Kampelman, an adviser to Humphrey.

Records of the second police district show a series of office burglaries which have been reported at the Watergate complex in recent months.

On May 28, the police records show, someone attempted to unscrew the locks on the offices of the Democratic National Committee, which occupies most of the sixth floor of the Watergate, and some of the fifth floor. The burglars were unable to gain entry, investigators said.

On May 6, police said, someone walked into the sixth floor Democratic committee's offices, opened a safe and stole \$100 in cash and a check for \$100.

No arrests have been made in that case, police said.

On April 28, the night four of the five bugging suspects were registered at the Watergate Hotel, according to police, the 11th-floor offices of the Sterling Institute, a management consulting firm, were broken into and \$1,100 worth of typewriters and calculating machines was stolen.

Second police district records also revealed that two Washington men were arrested at the Watergate at 2:50 a.m. on May 10, shortly after a break-in in a private business firm's office. The men, Marcus P. Robinson, 1364 Taylor St. NW, and Eric Atkinson, 1802 D St. SE, were charged with attempted burglary. Police said there is no evidence the break-ins were linked to political espionage.

Police also said that on April 28, the 11th floor offices of the Sterling Institute, a management consulting firm, was broken into and \$1,100 worth of typewriters and calculating machines was stolen.

The same night, police records show, the law firm of Boykin and DeFrancis, located on the eighth floor of the Watergate, was forcibly entered and \$525 worth of office equipment was stolen.

Police Insp. Ernest J. Prete said "We in the police department are interested in the burglary aspects of this case. The FBI is interested in the possibility of a violation of civil rights."