

Ex-CIA Agent Stole O'Brien Letters In Another Break-In, Prober Says

By GENE MILLER

Copyright 1972, Philadelphia Inquirer

MIAMI. — A commercial Miami photo firm processed secret Watergate "espionage film" seven days before police caught burglars inside the Democratic National Headquarters, State Attorney Richard E. Gerstein disclosed Thursday.

According to a just-discovered witness, ex-CIA agent Bernard Barker paid \$93.30 for a "special rush job" on 38 enlarged photographs — apparently the private correspondence of Larry O'Brien, chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Barker is one of five men accused of the June 17 Watergate burglary. Last April 20 he deposited to his Miami bank account \$114,000 in Republican campaign funds diverted through the Committee to Re-elect President Nixon.

UNDER SUBPENA and under oath, Michael Richardson, the commercial photographer, said he developed and printed two rolls of 35-mm film for Barker, Frank Sturgis-Fiorini, another accused burglar, and a third and still-unknown "photographer."

From the blow-up prints,

Richardson said he read "first name" only correspondence, written in long hand, signed "Larry," on Democratic National Headquarters stationery.

He believed at first he saw "deformed hands" in the photographs, holding "bundles" of onion skin" copies of documents on a shag rug.

Later, he said, he realized the deformed hands were ill-

fitting surgical gloves, droopy and wrinkled.

AN IMPATIENT BARKER, he said, kept interrupting the processing by telephone, wanting to know when the prints would be ready.

After three hours, Barker, Sturgis and "the photographer" left his film store, certain that "somebody is going to be happy to see them."

If accurate, Richardson's

testimony clearly establishes a first and earlier burglary at Watergate — before the June 17 arrest.

The political reverberations are still considerable. Mr. Nixon this week declared, "We're doing all we can to investigate this incident, not cover it up."

Twice within the last week Gerstein's investigation has

Continued on Page 4, Col. 5

Continued from First Page

he said. He was eager to get away.

upstaged other Federal inquiries. During the Republican National Convention last week, he took sworn statements from Maurice Stans, a former Secretary of Commerce, and Kenneth A. Dahlberg, a regional chairman for Mr. Nixon, tracing a \$25,000 cash campaign gift to Barker.

Gerstein's information led to a hurried rewrite of a report by the General Accounting Office in Washington which found "apparent violations" of the election campaign laws.

RICHARDSON, 29, a native Miamian, said Thursday he suspected "some sort of hanky-panky" as he made the prints.

"But I thought it might be legal. I didn't know. Our policy is to give the best possible quality for the money. And I didn't know. I thought those guys might be Mafia or something."

Richardson said he gave the Miami FBI a full account. "They told me I might be called to testify before a grand jury."

The jury has been taking testimony for more than two months. Richardson said he had not been called to testify.

Richardson said Barker arrived at his father's firm, Rich Photos, 160 W. Flagler st., about 12:10 P. M. June 10, a Saturday.

He said he was certain of the date. "We close at 1 P. M. I play golf every Saturday,"

he said. He was eager to get away.

THE RICH FIRM frequently processes film used in surveillance and undercover work. Law enforcement agencies sometimes use Rich's services.

"They called me over to the side," said Richardson, Barker introduced himself, using his own name, Richardson said.

He did not recognize him as a customer.

Richardson said he didn't realize who Barker was until June 19, the day the Miami Herald published a photograph of Barker walking down the steps of a Washington, D. C., courthouse after his arrest at the Watergate. This was nine days later.

ON JUNE 10 Barker at first wanted only 3½-by-5-inch "black and white contacts, a proof sheet," said Richardson. He told him he would charge \$10 and that it would take only half an hour.

Richardson said Barker gave a \$20 deposit for the job and two rolls of 35 mm Tri-X film, Eastman Kodak.

Barker excused himself. "He made a local telephone call."

"He turned around and came back." He wanted 8-by-10-inch blow-ups. Richardson told him there would be a \$40 service charge.

"And he said, 'I'll have to double check.'"



RICHARD E. GERSTEIN
... upstages U. S. probes



MICHAEL RICHARDSON
... 'rush job'