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Liddy Described As Organizer In Watergate Bugging Incident

WASHINGTON (AP) — The prosecutor in the Watergate bugging trial told the jury Monday that defendant Gordon Liddy was “the moneymen, the supervisor, the organizer” of espionage in Democratic headquarters and that co-defendant James W. McCord Jr. did his bidding.

Never once referring to involvement by the Committee for Re-election of the President, for which both men worked, prosecutor Earl J. Silbert said of the two defendants: “He and Liddy were off on an enterprise of their own.”

Both sides had rested earlier in the day—the 15th of the trial, and Silbert completed his one-hour closing argument. Judge John J. Sirica put off the defense’s closing arguments until Tuesday and said he would issue his instructions to the jury afterward.

Repeatedly turning toward the two defendants—the only ones left on trial from an original seven—Silbert asked:

“Who was the boss that night?” referring to an evening when the men were riding around with a young college student looking over McGovern headquarters.

“The boss was the defendant Liddy, the moneymen, the supervisor, the organizer.”

The case against the two men—and the other five who pleaded guilty earlier—began in the predawn hours of June 17th last year, when the political campaign was just heating up. That morning three plain clothes policemen arrested McCord and four others inside Democratic headquarters.

The defense for Liddy and McCord presented only 11 witnesses in an hour and 12 minutes before resting in the early afternoon.

Gerald Alch, McCord’s attorney said in his opening arguments three weeks ago that McCord had “no evil-meaning mind—no evil-doing hands.”

Peter Maroulis, Liddy’s attorney, who reserved his opening statements until Monday, said he would—through his wit-



JURY TO GET CASE — James W. McCord Jr., left, and G. Gordon Liddy, the two remaining defendants in the Watergate trial, leave U.S. District Court Monday after the defense and prosecution rested their cases. U.S. District

Judge John J. Sirica was scheduled to deliver his instructions to the jury Tuesday morning and turn the case over to the panel of eight women and four men. (AP Wirephoto)

nesses—“establish a line of innocence in the chain of command.”

Government witnesses have testified, Maroulis said, that Liddy was given an intelligence gathering function in the campaign but the prosecution made it appear that the guilt for illegal activities went no higher than Liddy.

McCord, 53, was a one-time FBI radio specialist and for 21 years in the Central Intelligence Agency. He was security director for the Republican National Committee and the Committee for the Re-election of the President at the time two wiretaps were placed in the Democratic party headquarters in the Watergate office building.

McCord is charged in eight counts with conspiracy “to obtain and use information illegally from the offices and headquarters of the Democratic National Committee;” with burglary, and with using bugging devices. A conviction on all eight counts could carry a maximum 60 years in prison and a fine of \$60,000.

Liddy, 42, also was in the FBI, had practiced law, and had been a top assistant in the Treasury Department and a White House aide. He was legal counsel for the Committee for the Re-election of the President and then for its finance arm at the time of the alleged conspiracy.

Liddy is charged in six

counts with conspiracy, burglary, and illegal wiretapping, but not—as McCord—with possessing intercepting devices for picking up oral and wire communications. Conviction could bring a maximum prison sentence of 50 years and fines up to \$40,000.

The other five original defendants—E. Howard Hunt Jr., 54, Bernard L. Barker, 55, Eugenio R. Martinez, 49, Frank A. Sturgis, 37, and Virgilio R. Gonzalez, 45, pleaded guilty at the trial’s start and await sentencing.

McCord, Barker, Martinez, Sturgis and Gonzalez were arrested in the Democratic offices at the watergate complex in the predawn darkness last June 17.