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Attorney Cites

Watergate

Plea 'Pleasure'

TRINACCO

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former attorney for four men convicted in the Watergate bugging trial plans to re-enter the case claiming they pleaded guilty under pressure, the Washington Post said in its editions today.

The newspaper quoted unnamed sources as saying the attorney wants a post-conviction hearing to seek a new trial for his clients on grounds that they pleaded guilty as a result of an obstruction of justice.

ATTORNEY HENRY Rothblatt of New York, who originally represented four Miami men in the trial, will tell U.S. Dist. Court Judge John J. Sirica they were promised clemency and money for not revealing all they know about the burglary and bugging of Democratic National Committee headquarters last June, the

Post said.

Sirica deferred their sentencing Friday to give them a chance to provide "full cooperation" in the investigation.

Another man convicted in the case, James W. McCord, has already cleared the way for possible new revelations in the affair. In a letter to Sirica revealed Friday, McCord said witnesses had committed perjury at the trial, political pressure had been applied to keep defendants quiet, and his family fears for his life if he tells all he knows.

NOW, ACCORDING to the Post, the four Miami defendants could follow suit by having Rothblatt re-enter the case to tell Sirica the four were talked into pleading guilty by E. Howard Hunt, a former White House aide who was himself convicted after pleading guilty.

The Post quoted sources as saying Hunt persuaded the four to abandon their plans to take the witness stand and possibly name other persons with knowledge of the Watergate conspiracy.

Rothblatt was fired by the Miami defendants during the January trial when he refused to change his clients' pleas from not guilty to guilty.