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Watergate Bugmen Sentenced

WASHINGTON (AP) — E. Howard Hunt, ex-spy, novelist and aging romantic, was sentenced Friday to a minimum of 2½ years and fined \$10,000 for his part in the bungled Watergate break-in. Five men who worked for him were given shorter terms.

Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica ordered the former White House consultant to serve 2½ to 8 years in prison for helping plan and direct the break-in at Democratic national headquarters whose reverberations have threatened to bring down the Nixon administration.

James W. McCord Jr., the

burglar who blew the lid off the scandal with a letter to the judge, was sentenced to one to five years as Sirica handed down the sentences he had delayed for months to encourage the men to cooperate with authorities.

McCord, who with G. Gordon Liddy stood trial after the others pleaded guilty, has the right to appeal, and his lawyer said he would. Meanwhile, he remains free on bail with 15 days to get his affairs in order.

Bernard L. Barker, Hunt's deputy in the CIA-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, was sentenced to 18 months to 6 years. Barker recruited his CIA-connected associates — Eugenio R. Martinez, Virgilio R. Gonzalez and Frank A. Sturgis — for the June 17, 1972 break-in.

Martinez, Gonzalez and Sturgis each were given one-to-four year terms and will be eligible for parole before Christmas. They already have served nearly a year while awaiting trial and final sentencing.

Barker's daughter, Maria Elena Moffett of Alexandria, Va., denounced the sentence that will keep her father in prison at least seven or eight months more. "Someone has to go to jail," she said, "so they send this man — a punk — for Mitchell, Magruder and ultimately the President of the United States."

Former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell headed President Nixon's re-election committee which financed the break-in and bugging operation. Jeb Stuart Magruder was his deputy and has sworn he got Mitchell's approval for the intelligence plan.

Liddy, who was counsel for the re-election committee, already has been sentenced to six years, eight months to 20 years for his role in heading the burglary team. He has appealed his conviction and currently is serving 18 months in jail for defying Sirica's order to cooperate with the grand jury investigation of the scandal.

Sirica sentenced the men one at a time in the packed, hushed courtroom where Liddy and McCord stood trial and the others pleaded guilty in January.

McCord, 53, was convicted on eight felony counts, including burglary, illegal possession of wiretap equipment, electronic eavesdropping and conspiracy. Hunt, 54, pleaded guilty to six counts, not including illegal possession and the other four pleaded guilty to seven, not including electronic eavesdropping.

Burglary carries a maximum sentence of 15 years; the other counts five years each. All but the burglary counts could result in \$10,000 fines.

Before imposing the sentences, Sirica heard Daniel E. Schultz, attorney for Barker and the three other Miami men, declared:

"They still wonder whether the full truth has come out or will ever be known." He argued that the men believed what Hunt told them, that they were working for a super intelligence unit in the White House, that they had CIA assistance and that they were serving their country.

When asked if they had anything to say, Gonzalez and Sturgis shook their heads. Then Martinez delivered a lengthy and impassioned speech about his dedication and service and told the judge: "If I have not behaved, I want the country and you to forgive me."

Barker, speaking softly, told the judge he had recruited the others but not "for any criminal purpose" and said it would be useless to imprison him any longer.

But, he added, "If I am to return to jail, I will do so with the greatest love for my country."

McCord's lawyer asked that his client be placed on probation, pointing out that McCord believed the operation had been authorized and that "he alone came forward to tell all" after the trial.