

Watergate Crimes Alleged By Jury

WASHINGTON (AP) — According to a federal grand jury, the five obscure men arrested inside Democratic National Committee headquarters at 2:30 a.m. on June 17, 1972, had powerful allies at the highest levels of the United States government.

In a 50-page indictment returned on Friday, the grand jury told a tale of thwarted efforts to exert influence to free the defendants, of the raising of vast sums of money to buy their silence, and of a tangle of lies told to those trying to get at the truth.

What follows is the story as alleged by the grand jury:

Within hours of the Watergate arrests, former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell met with Robert C. Mardian in Beverly Hills, Calif. Mitchell told him to have G. Gordon Liddy try to get Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst to release the men being held by Washington police.

By noon on June 17, Liddy had found Kleindienst at Burning Tree golf club but the attorney general flatly rejected his suggestion that the Watergate burglars get preferential treatment.

Within 24 hours of the break-in, H.R. Haldeman, White House staff chief, instructed Gordon Strachan, a member of his staff, to destroy documents in his files.

And within 48 hours of the break-in, John D. Ehrlichman, another top White House aide, told John W. Dean III to get word to E. Howard Hunt Jr., to get out of the country.

Ehrlichman also told Dean to get the contents of the safe in Hunt's office in the Executive Office Building.

There was a meeting in Mitchell's Watergate apartment the evening of June 19, at which the former attorney general allegedly suggested to Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy director of the Nixon re-election committee, that he destroy documents in his files.

The frantic clearing of files and effort to free the arrested men were followed by the search for money, enough of it

to keep the defendants from telling all they knew.

It was only a week after the break-in, said the grand jury, that Mitchell and Mardian, a former assistant attorney general, suggested to Dean that the CIA might be a good source of covert funds for the defendants.

And two days later, Ehrlichman agreed it was worth a try.

But it turned out that Nixon political fund raisers were bet-

ter sources of money, the jury indicated.

Herbert W. Kalmbach, the President's personal attorney and long-time political fund-raiser, was recruited to come up with money, and Anthony Ulasewicz, a former New York cop, was given the job of delivering the cash.

On July 7, Ulasewicz made his first delivery, \$25,000 in cash to William O. Bittman, Hunt's lawyer.

There would be 11 more deliveries for a grand total of \$402,500.

Another source of available cash turned out to be \$350,000 in campaign funds Haldeman had in his White House safe. Strachan took it, in two deliveries, to Frederick C. LaRue, a campaign committee aide, for ultimate distribution to the defendants and their families.

But the demands for money were proving insatiable. And there were other demands that could be more difficult to fill—Hunt and James W. McCord Jr., wanted assurances of executive clemency.

Only one man, the President, could grant it.

According to the grand jury, Charles W. Colson, White House special counsel, discussed clemency for Hunt on Jan. 3, with Ehrlichman and Dean. Days later, Mitchell allegedly asked Dean to have assurances of clemency passed on to McCord.

The grand jury gave no public indication of whether the President was a party to any clemency discussions.

That meeting was in the President's office. Dean and Haldeman both have testified that Dean told Nixon that he expected the demands to run as high as \$1 million over a period of years.

They both agreed the President said that much money could be raised. But Haldeman said Nixon added that "it would be wrong" to raise the money.

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