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Watergate Lead

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WASHINGTON AP - Two former White House aides and five other persons were accused Friday by a federal grand jury of breaking into the Democratic national headquarters to steal documents and to install electronic "bugs."

The eight-count indictment, returned by a federal grand jury in U.S. District Court here, said the seven men installed electronic listening devices to intercept telephone and oral communications.

The seven defendants include the five men who were arrested at the Watergate Hotel on the morning of the break-in, and G. Gordon Liddy, former counsel to the finance committee for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, and E. Howard Hunt, a former White House consultant who was described in the indictment as a friend and associate of Liddy.

The others named in the indictment are Bernard L. Barker, a Miami real-estate operator; James W. McCord Jr., a former CIA employe who was a security consultant for the Nixon re-election committee at the time of his arrest; Eugenio R. Martinez, a notary public who was an employe of the Barker firm; Frank A. Sturgis, described as an associated of Barker and a self-described soldier of fortune, and Virgilio R. Gonzalez, a Miami locksmith also described as an associated of Barker.

The break-in at the Watergate offices of the Democratic committee was discovered June 17, when the arrests were made.

The chairman of the Democratic committee at the time was Lawrence F. O'Brien, now campaign chairman for the Democratic presidential nominee, George S. McGovern.

In a statement commenting on the grand jury action, O'Brien said Friday.

"The indictments handed down today by a federal grand jury confirm my contention that the bugging and burglary of Democratic headquarters were a most serious incident, raising questions that go to the heart of the American political system.

"We can only assume that the investigation will continue, since the indictments handed down today reflect only the most narrow construction of the crime that was committed. In particular, we will continue to press for a far more thorough explanation of the funding of the crime that led to these indictments. As I have said many times, the only way for this entire case of political espionage to be laid to rest is for Mr. Nixon to order the appointment of a special prosecutor who is not politically beholden to anyone."

Democratic Vice Presidential nominee R. Sargent Shriver said in Toledo, Ohio, "We must not forget that this is only an indictment, not a conviction. Final judgment must be withheld until all the facts are developed in an open trial," he said.

"From what we already know," he said, "there must be a continuing investigation and there must be a speedy trial of the seven defendants named today. All of us have a right to all of the facts in the Watergate case."

The seven defendants were charged in one count with conspiring from last May 1 to June 17 to use illegal means to obtain information from Democratic headquarters.

The illegal means, according to the conspiracy count of the indictment, included placing wiretaps and other surveillance devices in the headquarters with the conversations transmitted to a room in the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge across the street from the Watergate, stealing certain documents and papers and photographing others.

All seven defendants were charged in the second count with entering the committee offices with the intent to steal property and in the third count with entering the headquarters with intent to illegally intercept telephone and oral conversations.

The seven defendants also were charged in two other counts with trying to intercept telephone and oral communications coming from inside the party's headquarters.

Five of the defendants, excluding Liddy and Hunt, were charged in two counts with illegally possessing listening devices, one of which transmitted oral conversations but was made up to resemble fire detection equipment and labelled "ARI Smoke Detector," and the other a telephone wiretap.

Liddy, Hunt and McCord were charged in the eighth count with actually intercepting telephone conversations made to and from the committee headquarters, primarily from the offices of R. Spencer Oliver, executive director of the committee's state chairmen's associations, and Ida M. Wells, his secretary.

The interceptions occurred during a three-week period from May 25 to June 16, the indictment said.

Four of the eight counts—those charging burglary and possession of intercepting devices—were brought under the District of Columbia criminal code.

The penalty for burglary is two to 15 years in prison on each count. For possession of intercepting devices, the maximum penalty per count is five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The other four counts allege violations of the federal criminal code.

Maximum penalty for interception and disclosure of wire or oral communications is five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The maximum penalty for conspiracy is the same.

The indictment listed 20 overt acts said to have been performed by the defendants to further the conspiracy. The listing included these alleged acts:

-McCord's purchase—for \$3,500—of an electronic device capable of receiving intercepted conversations;

-The purchase by Martinez and Sturgis of surgical gloves.

-The purchase by Martinez of film and other photographic equipment.

-The transfer of \$1,600 in cash from Liddy to McCord.

-The theft by McCord of documents and papers belonging to the committee; and

-The reconnoitering of Sen. McGovern's headquarters by Liddy, Hunt and McCord. McGovern is the Democratic presidential candidate.

Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst said the investigation by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Columbia was "one of the most intensive, objective and thorough investigations in many years, reaching out to cities all across the United States as well as into foreign countries."

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