

Liddy Injured in Jail Scuffle

By Peter Osnos

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Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy received a cut on his ear and a bruise on his nose in a scrap with another inmate at the D.C. jail before dawn yesterday, officials reported.

The fight broke out as Liddy, a former White House aide, was being led through a cellblock corridor, according to jail officials. They said Liddy spotted another prisoner with a hair brush, claimed it was his and demanded it back. Guards quickly broke the pair apart and Liddy was treated at the jail hospital.

Later in the day when Liddy appeared before a grand jury at the U.S. Court House his left ear lobe was still covered with blood. "Gordon's a scrapper," said Liddy's lawyer Peter L. Maroulis, "he wouldn't let anybody step on him."

Liddy, a former prosecutor and ex-FBI agent was taken to the D.C. jail on Friday after Judge John J. Sirica sentenced him to serve at least six years, eight months in jail and fined him \$40,000 for his part in the break-in and eavesdropping at the Watergate headquarters of the Democratic National Committee.

At the crowded, nearly 100-year-old jail, Liddy has been placed in the same room with the five other Watergate conspirators now confined. Jail Supt. Anderson Magruder described the quarters as a large room rather than a cell, "adequate for six or more people" in a minimum security cellblock.

Four of the defendants, all

from Miami, have been in the jail since they pleaded guilty to burglary and wiretapping charges in January. Until Friday, Liddy spent most of the time since his Jan. 30th conviction at the federal penitentiary at Danbury, Conn.

The group was joined yesterday by another conspirator, E. Howard Hunt, who had spent the weekend being processed after being jailed by Judge Sirica Friday. Hunt had been free on \$100,000 bond since he pleaded guilty in January.

Hunt, also a former White House consultant who worked 20 years for the Central Intelligence Agency, reportedly suffers from a peptic ulcer, and his attorney, William O. Bittman, requested that the receive medical attention. Bittman declined yesterday to discuss his client's accommodations, but said, "I think the sooner he gets moved out of there the better."

The seventh Watergate conspirator, James W. McCord Jr., the former security director of President Nixon's reelection committee, is free on \$100,000 bond. He asked last week to appear privately before Sirica to give further information in the case and has already spoken to investigators for a Senate committee looking into the Watergate affair. The judge has deferred sentencing of McCord.

Liddy's sentence is final and he has asked to be returned to Danbury. The other five men have received provisional 35-year sentences, which the judge said might be modified

if they cooperate in the continuing investigations.

In the meantime, the men are receiving what Supt. Magruder portrayed as routine treatment in the jail. They are allowed to move around their cellblock and eat in the mess hall with other prisoners. During the day, they read newspapers and magazines and watch television, he said.

Liddy, authorities said, is the only one of the Watergate conspirators to have trouble with another prisoner. Magruder said no disciplinary action is contemplated.

Lawyers for the men said they were getting along reasonably well among themselves, although Daniel Schultz, attorney for the four from Miami, said, "It's a little hard to live in close contact like that."

On the other hand, he said, "having someone you know around can help."

When he got into the fight yesterday, Liddy was on his way to the jail's processing center to prepare for his grand jury appearance. At the courthouse, however, Liddy's lawyer insisted that he be returned to the jail and permitted to change from his prison denims to a business suit.

"I think," Maroulis said, "that when a man appears in court or before a grand jury, he should be dressed appropriately."

Liddy, who has lost 20 pounds in recent weeks, said that he has placed himself on a 900-calorie a day diet in jail to avoid the starchy food served here and in Danbury.