

Watergate's Sit-Down Comic

Washington

They brought Tony U. back yesterday and maybe they should make him a regular guest on the nationally televised Senate Watergate hearings.

Anthony Thomas Ulasewicz, the retired New York City detective with the sagging jowls, shadowed eyes and slicked-back hair that recalls nothing if not the Age of Brilliantine, might push the television ratings out of sight.

At least he would if the response of the standing-room crowd and most of the committee members and staffers in the Caucus Room of the Old Senate Office Building is any indicator.

LAUGHS

Just as it did when this dead-panned child of New York's Lower East Side first appeared on May 22, the laughter rolled so regularly around the marble-pillared room yesterday morning that it could have been canned.

There are a lot of for- instances in his account of his escapades as a supreptitious deliverer of money for the Watergate defendants and their families.

Ulasewicz recalled wearily in his rapid-fire New York accent that he had had all sorts of difficulties trying to turn over \$75,100 that he was carrying "in a brown bag, with, you know, the ordinary type of, with a little string around it" to C. Douglas Caddy, a Washington lawyer who first represented the men arrested last June in the Democratic National Committee's headquarters.

Every time he ran into a problem, he said, he had to go to a phone booth and call Herbert W. Kalm- bach, President Nixon's personal lawyer at the time, who had recruited him for the delivery job.

CHANGE

Were you loaded sown

with change, Mr. Ulasewicz?" asked Terry Lenzner, the young, Harvard-trained assistant counsel, who played a willing straight man for the New Yorker throughout the interrogation.

"Oh, yes, indeed," Ulasewicz replied.

"How did you carry that change?" Lenzner asked.

"When I started out," Ulasewicz said, "I started with a kind of box deal. When I finished up, I had a bus guy's, one of these things that the bus drivers have."

MONEY

After the laughter, he recalled, still straight-faced, another attempt to part with the money.

He said that he had called a number in the Washington, D.C. area with "no name involved."

"I may have called from the city of New York at that time," he added, "because running around with \$75,100 trying to get rid of it was becoming a problem."

Remembering sadly that he had then had to call Kalmbach for further instructions, Ulasewicz said:

"I had to call and wait for a comeback. I began to call them Kalmbach comeback' calls."

PALM

That may not have been much of a line, but he had the audience in his palm by then. Even the senators were laughing.

A few moments later, when he complained earnestly that after several other abortive efforts "I still wanted to get rid of all those cookies, 75,100," it brought the house down.

While he was trying "to get rid of all those cookies," he traveled frequently back and forth between New York and Washington, usually on an air lines shuttle.

"Did you ever change your mode of travel?" Len-

zer asked. "Did you have a problem on the plane?"

SEARCH

"Well, there was a period of time, of course, with the hijacks and all," Ulasewicz said, "they started a searching system on the airlines and that was a little problem."

"I got in line one time to come back, when I had the problem, it would be only \$50,000 at this time. A fellow in front of me, two or three persons in front of me, stopped and had to produce — I think four packs of cigarettes or something, set off the alarm."

"So I went into a coughing fit and I went down to the Pennsylvania Railroad and took the train home."

Later, he said that he had refused to tell Kalmbach how he was trying to deliver the money because "Washington would be a sieve" and "if it leaks out what I am doing, you certainly would always feel that I failed in your trust."

SIEVE

And when he was asked if he had ever told John Caulfield, a White House aide at the time, who had recruited him for earlier investigations, about the Watergate payments, he replied with certainty:

"No sir, Mr. Caulfield is a Washngton resident and any Washington resident is one of those holes in a sieve, no matter who he is."

Pressed later by Senator Edward Gurney (Rep-Fla.), to explain what a "hole in the sieve" was, Ulasewicz responded firmly: "There are many leaks and very few secrets in Washington."

"It is sort of a disease once you get here, is that it?" Gurney asked.

"I think once you are caught here," Ulasewicz declared. "you are caught, and there ain't no way out."

CONTAMINATED

"How about you," Gurney asked, "did you get contami-



UPI Telephoto

ANTHONY ULASEWICZ
'All those cookies'

nated in Washington?"

"Oh, no sir, I think I am not contaminated in any way," replied the 54-year-old Ulasewicz, who spent 26 years on the New York City police force, "because anything I did, I went into it seeking to do it. I went into it with my eyes wide open, and I think I did a good job."

By the time it was Senator Howard Baker's turn, the Tennessee Republican, who had been ranging from smiles to chuckles to loud laughter all morning, couldn't contain himself.

"Mr. Ulasewicz," he said with an elfin grin: "Who thought you up?"

The retired detective surely could have said, "Damon Runyan." No one would have argued. But he didn't.

"I don't know," he said instead, "but maybe my parents."

SERIOUS

That brought more laughter from the crowd. But not everyone thought the day's events were funny.

After running down a list of participants in the Watergate affair and eliciting from Ulasewicz that all but one on the list were in prison and that the other — Dorothy Hunt — was dead, Senator Lowell Weicker concluded solemnly:

"I think what we see here is not a joke, but a very great tragedy."

At that, nobody laughed.