

14 Mar 75 ①

IRS - Elsa Suarez of Miami says in intv that she was recruited by the IRS in 1972 to take part in a widespread operation (Operation Leprechaun) to gather information on the sex life and drinking habits of 30 prominent South Floridians, among them state attorney Richard Gerstein.

NYT quotes Elsa Suarez as saying, "They told me, 'Get Gerstein in particular because he's making trouble with his Watergate investigation.'^~^ They said they would give me a \$20,000-a-year pension for life, new identity and a home abroad if I were successful. But other than that, they were never very clear about the objective of Operation Leprechaun."

Story says Mrs. Suarez "has made a sworn statement regarding her assertions to ... Gerstein.... Mr. Gerstein, an early investigator in the Watergate case because of its many Florida aspects, called this afternoon for a Congressional investigation of Mrs. Suarez's charges. 'In the meantime,' he said, 'I'm conducting my own investigation to see if any local laws have been violated.... '"

Story ends by saying that "after three months of trying and producing little information [presumably on the 30 people she was to watch] she told one of her contacts that she wanted to quit. 'I thought things looked fishy,' she recounted, 'but the contact became very angry and threatened me and my children.'" It is unclear from this whether she stopped working for the IRS after three months, or continued because of the threats.

On Gerstein's involvement in Watergate matters, see entry ~~Chronology~~ 4 Oct 73 (Bugging of Democratic party's headquarters in Miami Beach) and 30 Nov 73 (Nixon, finances [\$100,000 certificate of deposit]). In the first entry (AMP-A that date) there is mention of McCord having told Gerstein in the summer of 1972 about the bugging of the Democrats' Miami headquarters. If Mrs. Suarez did end her involvement with the IRS after three months, Gerstein's interest in the certificate of deposit and his subpoena of the records of Rebozo's bank/<sup>came</sup> too long afterward to be considered as a reason for "getting" him. However, if she quit about the time of today's story, this could be included as "making trouble with his Watergate investigation."

NYT 15 Mar 75, B. Drummond Ayres Jr.

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- Gerstein was involved in Jim Garrison's investigation of JFK assassination. Gerstein said in an intv, Nov 67, that before Garrison's investigation was made public in Feb of that year, he made his staff available to Garrison to look into possible involvement of Cuban exiles in Miami in an assassination conspiracy.

See cardx, Garrison file, 7 Nov 67

(Guitierrez?) *Amc - B*

Elsa Suarez - See entry, IRS, Elsa Suarez

Operation Leprechaun - " " " " "

Richard M. Gerstein - " " " " "

Sturgis - A nine-month jail term imposed on Sturgis, on charges of shipping stolen cars to Mexico, is set aside because of his cooperation with Federal narcotic agents. He and another man, Jerry Buchanan, had been convicted of conspiring to do this; both are placed on a year's probation by U.S. District Court Judge Clyde Atkins. (Story is datelined Miami.)

Sturgis has denied the charge and claimed his activities were known to the government and carried out at its request.

SFC 15 Mar 75 [UPI]

NYT 15 Mar 75 [UPI]

Jerry Buchanan - See entry, Sturgis.

McCord is denied a motion for a new trial by Judge Sirica, and as a result must begin serving his one-to-five year sentence 21 Mar (NYT). UPI says Sirica's denial was of a "request for a hearing on evidence that he allegedly has uncovered. Sirica said any such material should be presented to the Supreme Court, which has denied McCord bail but taken no action on his motion for a review of his case."

NYT 15 Mar 75, Lesley Oelsner

SFC 15 Mar 75 [UPI]

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"Nixon Tapes Yielded Voluntarily" - Miller turns over to special prosecutor's office copies of two tape recordings. Spokesman for special prosecutor says, "These are not for a trial. They're for an ongoing criminal investigation and they do indicate the beginning of us getting access to evidence we've been trying to get since August. A lot of people believe we've had access for months. But that's not so. But if this procedure continues to be followed, we'll be satisfied . . . We've worked something out that looks to be a voluntary arrangement . . . and we're now confident we'll get everything we need."

The arrangement worked out is for Miller to review tapes requested by the prosecutor, to whom he then turns them over. "According to the special prosecutor and the White House, Miller has not himself had direct access to the original tapes. The tapes he hears are duplicates, prepared by the Secret Service with all three of the interested parties (White House, Miller and special prosecutor) observing."

SFC 18 Mar 75 [WXP]

(14 Mar 75) AMP

Ⓐ- From same story: "Six weeks ago, The Philadelphia Bulletin reported that a secret unit of the I.R.S. that allegedly had collected 'personal information' on thousands of American citizens in recent years had been ordered to disband and destroy its files. The article indicated that the unit had operated in a number of cities, including Miami. It quoted sources who said that some of the unit's operatives had reported directly to the White House when Richard M. Nixon was President."

Ⓑ- In later story, Elsa Guitierrez is the name used. See entry 16 Mar 75, Operation Leprechaun.