

2 Held in Watergate Case Tied to Film on Party Data

by Walter Rugaber

Special to The New York Times

Washington, Aug. 31 - A photographic processor in Miami said today that two men arrested June 17 in the break-in at Democratic party headquarters had asked him to develop pictures of party documents a week before the break-in occurred.

He said that the two men, Bernard L. Barker and Frank Sturgis, brought two rolls of 35-mm. film to his shop on June 10 and asked for a rush developing job.

The processor, Michael Richardson, a 29-year-old official of Rich Photos, Inc., said that each of 38 exposures showed letters, memorandums and other documents, many of them to or from Lawrence F. O'Brien, then chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Most of the documents were being held in place for copying by hands wearing rubber gloves, Mr. Richardson said. The men arrested during the break-in June 17 wore rubber gloves and carried copying cameras.

Mr. Richardson said that he had not kept a copy of the film. But state attorney Richard E. Gerstein, the Miami prosecutor, said that the processor had undergone a lie detector test today and "passed it with flying colors."

Mr. Richardson's account would provide the closest link to date between the men captured in the Democratic offices on June 17 with one or more earlier raids that party officials have said they believe were made on the party's sixth-floor suite in the elegant Watergate complex here.

Mr. Richardson said in a telephone interview this afternoon that an unidentified third man had returned with Mr. Barker and Mr. Sturgis when (Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

they picked up the prints, and that the was eager to examine them.

The processor said that he had studied pictures of all five men arrested on June 17, and that the third man was none of them. He described him as being blond, reddish faced and tall.

The two men came to his Miami shop at about noon on June 10, Mr. Richardson said, and it was explained to them that since the establishment was about to close there would be a \$40 charge for processing the film that day.

He said that Mr. Barker went to a telephone, placed a local call to an unidentified party and then told Mr. Richardson to go ahead with the job.

Mr. Barker handed over two rolls of Tri-X, 36-exposure film, Mr. Richardson said, and explained that the pictures involved documents and that the exposures had been made by natural light.

Shop Urged to Hurry

As a consequence, Mr. Richardson said, he thought that the film would be somewhat underexposed and hence overdeveloped it to provide better contrast. Actually, he said, it appeared that the light had come from a flashgun.

Mr. Richardson said that Mr. Barker and Mr. Sturgis went to a restaurant across the street from Rich Photos and made repeated calls to the shop urging the processor to hurry. Mr. Richardson said that he told them he would never finish if they kept bothering him.

The work was completed about 3 P.M., he said, and Mr.

Barker, Mr. Sturgis and the unidentified third man came to the back door of the establishment to collect the negatives and 38 prints. A 10-by-7-inch print had been made from each shot.

With the \$40 surcharge and the regular fee, Mr. Richardson said, the men paid just under \$100 for the pictures. The Florida authorities said that the processor had turned over a cash-register tape recording such a transaction.

The prosecutor, Mr. Gerstein, said that at his request Mr. Richardson had undergone and passed a polygraph examination administered by Warren Holmes, a widely known specialist in the field.

Mr. Richardson, in the interview, was unable to describe the documents with precision. He explained that the work had been done in a hurry and that he was being pressed by Mr. Barker and Mr. Sturgis from across the street.

"Basically, most of this was memos back and forth between different [Democratic party] personnel," Mr. Richardson said. "The actual contents I really didn't have time to stop and read or anything like that."

First-Name Basis

But, he recalled, there were a number of "letters on a first-name basis between Mr. O'Brien and other parties . . . you know, they would sign off with just their first names, such as 'Ray.'"

In a separate development today, there were somewhat contradictory reports of a more direct involvement in the June 17 raid by G. Gordon Liddy,

former general counsel to the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, and E. Howard Hunt Jr., a onetime White House consultant.

The Washington Star-News reported in today's issue that Mr. Liddy and Mr. Hunt were in a motel room across the street from the Watergate on the night of the break-in. Electronic listening devices were in their possession, the newspaper said.

CBS News, however, said this evening that the two men had first been in the Watergate Hotel itself and fled across the street to the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge only after their radio receivers indicated the arrival of the police.

There has been speculation since the day Mr. Barker and the others were arrested, with walkie-talkies and listening devices in their possession, that one or more confederates had been posted nearby.

Mr. Richardson said that two hand-written letters were nearly illegible, like "a doctor's prescription." He said that either Senator Edward M. Kennedy or his brother, Robert F. Kennedy, was named in another document.

Another letter was to or from "Pat Harris or something like that," Mr. Richardson said. Patricia Roberts Harris, who chaired the Credentials Committee of the Democratic National Convention, has law offices in the Watergate complex.

A member of her firm, Freed, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Kampelman, reported some time ago that on the night of May 15-16 the law offices appeared to have been entered. It was

reported that nothing was removed from the suite.

Most of the copied documents were written on onion-skin paper, Mr. Richardson said, and these apparently had to be held down by the gloved hands. Those on bond paper, he added, were simply placed on the floor and not held.

Also visible in the pictures, the photo processor said, was what he described as a "shag" rug. A Democratic spokesman said today that the party headquarters, so far as he knew, were furnished only with short-pile carpeting.

Recognized Customers

Mr. Richardson said that at first he had not thought too much about the pictures. Later, however, he saw pictures of Mr. Barker and Mr. Sturgis after their arrest and recognized them as his customers.

Mr. Barker, a Miami real estate agent, and Mr. Sturgis, a self-described soldier of fortune, have had past connections with the Central Intelligence Agency. Both took part in the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

It was an account in the Republic National Bank of Miami controlled by Mr. Barker that received \$114,000 in checks that had been previously sent as contributions to President Nixon's political organization.

Mr. Barker deposited the checks on April 20 and withdrew the \$114,000 in three stages in late April and early May. When he was arrested, he had in his possession \$5,300 in cash that has been traced to the withdrawals.

Mr. Barker has also been linked to the Republicans through numerous calls from his telephone in Miami to numbers

used by G. Gordon Liddy, former general counsel of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

Mr. Liddy was dismissed on June 28 by former Attorney General John N. Mitchell for refusing to answer questions about the case. Mr. Mitchell resigned a few days later as head of the Nixon campaign.

A Treasury Department source confirmed today that Mr. Liddy had been invited to find another job after he made a speech to the National Rifle Association that seemed to clash with the department's position on gun controls.

Mr. Liddy "had his own blinders on" when it came to gun controls, the informant said, and his speech was the last in a series of incidents in which "a staff man . . . kept trying to set policy."

The source said that the Treasury Department had not hired Liddy by the White House. He worked part of the time with Mr. Hunt on international narcotics problems.

Dutchess County ran for ant district attorney in Dutchess County who ran for Congress in the Republican primary against Representative Hamilton Fish in 1968, was moved to the re-election committee on Dec. 11, 1971, and finally to the finance arm of the organization.

The Los Angeles Times published a report today saying that Mr. Liddy, while in the White House, had approached Justice Department attorneys during the Pentagon Papers controversy and suggested bugging the offices of The New York Times.