

A Story of Photos From Demo HQ

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Washington

A photographic processor in Miami said yesterday 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 that 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 each of 38 exposures showed letters, memoranda and other documents, many of them from Lawrence F. O'Brien, then chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

GLOVES

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

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

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.

COPIES

The account also suggests

that there was a serious effort not only to rifle the Democratic files and read documents on the spot but also to retain copies that could be passed on to others.

Richardson said in a telephone interview yesterday that an unidentified third man had returned with Barker and Sturgis when they picked up the prints, and that he 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

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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, Richardson said, and he told them that since the establishment was about to close there would be a \$40 charge for processing the film that day.

CALL

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

Richardson said Barker handed over two rolls of film, saying the pictures involved documents and that the exposures had been made by natural light.

As a consequence, Richardson said, he thought that the film would be somewhat under-exposed and hence overdeveloped it to provide better contrast. Actually he said, it appeared

that the light had come from a flashgun.

Richardson said that Barker and Sturgis went to a restaurant across the street from Rich Photos and made repeated calls to the shop urging the processor to hurry.

PRINTS

The work was completed at about 3 p.m., he said, and Barker, Sturgis and the unidentified third man came to the back door of the establishment to collect the negatives and 38 prints. A ten-by-seven inch print had been made from each shot.

With the \$40 surcharge and the regular fee, Ri-

chardson 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, Gerstein, said that at his request Richardson had undergone and passed a polygraph examination administered by War-

ren Holmes, a widely known specialist in the field.

HURRY

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

"Basically, most of this was memos back and forth between different (Democratic party) personnel," Richardson said.

He recalled there were a number of "letters on a first-name basis between O'Brien and other parties . . ."

Richardson said either Senator Edward M. Kennedy or his brother, Robert F. Kennedy, was named in one document.

Another letter was to or from "Pat Harris or something like that," Richardson said. Patricia Robert 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 and Kempelman, 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.

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

Barker, a Miami real estate agent, and 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.

CHECKS

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

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 \$5300 in cash that has been traced to the withdrawals.

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.

DISMISSAL

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

Liddy, a onetime assistant district attorney in New York state's 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 this week saying that 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.