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Demo Bugging Suspect Is Charged With Fraud

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Miami

Bernard L. Barker, a suspect in the Democratic National Committee bugging case, was charged yesterday with fraudulently notarizing the signature of a prominent Republican fund-raiser in order to cash a \$25,000 check.

The filing of the charge by State Attorney Richard E. Gerstein paves the way for a possible pre-election trial that could shed further light on Democratic charges that President Nixon's campaign committee financed the break-in and bugging of Democratic Committee offices in Washington.

Gerstein, a Democrat who was re-elected Tuesday to a fifth term, says his investigation makes it "rather clear" that the \$25,000 and another \$89,000 in funds collected by the Committee for the Re-Election of the President was used to finance political espionage operations.

HOPES

The prosecutor said he hopes to bring Barker to trial on the felony case before the November 7 election "because the public is entitled to the facts in this case without having them swept under the rug."

Gerstein said that meanwhile his investigation of the case is continuing to determine if other state laws were broken by suspects in the bugging case.

In a recent newspaper interview, Barker indicated he has no intention of disclosing who hired him and other suspects for the bugging operation. "Just because I got in trouble," he said, "I don't want nobody else to get in trouble."

FACE

Henry Rothblott of New York, Barker's attorney, told Gerstein he will surrender his client in the state attorney's office today. If convicted, Barker would face maximum punishment of five years.

Barker, a Cuban-born Miami real estate dealer, and four other suspects were arrested June 17 while allegedly attempting to plant electronic eavesdropping devices after breaking into the Democratic Committee offices.

Barker is accused of falsely notarizing the signature of Kenneth H. Dahlberg, a Wayzata, Minn., electronics manufacturer and a regional finance chairman of the president's re-election committee.

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