New Orleans States-Item

Innocent Plea Entered By Watergate Figure

MIAMI (AP) — Bernard L. Barker, one of five men accused of breaking into Democratic National Headquarters, pleaded innocent today of fraudulently notarizing a \$25,000 Republican campaign contribution.

Criminal Judge Paul Baker set Barker's bond at \$1,000 and ordered the real estate broker and former CIA operative to stand trial on the felony charge Oct. 30.

Barker was charged Thursday with falsely using his notary public seal on a \$25,000 check which he allegedly deposited in his Miami bank account. He surrendered earlier today to State Atty. Richard Gerstein of Miami.

Barker, 55, spoke only two words at his arraignment, answering "12 years" when asked how long he had been a resident of the Miami area.

His attorney, Henry Rothblatt of New York City, said he expected indictments would be returned in Washington later today against Barker and others accused of the Watergate complex break-in in the nation's capitol.

Rothblatt indicated that Barker and the other four charged in the Watergate affair may have been motivated by a desire to free Cuba of Communist domination.

"People like them are motivated to do things for love of Cuba," the attorney told a news conference following Barker's arraignment. He did not elaborate.

Barker, who as a CIA agent reportedly played a role in the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, said, "I will continue to support the Cuban cause."

Beyond that, Barker had virtually nothing more to say at the news conference. Rothblatt fielded most of the questions aimed at his client.