

Seven Charged in Bugging Plead Not Guilty and Are Free on Bail

NYTimes

By ANTHONY RIPLEY SEP 20 1972

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 — The seven men charged on eight counts each in the Watergate bugging conspiracy case all pleaded not guilty today and were released on bonds ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

No date was set for their trial by Chief Judge John J. Sirica in Federal District Court in the political espionage case that began June 17 when five men were arrested at 2 A.M. inside the Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate complex.

Judge Sirica set bond at \$10,000 each for two former White House aides, E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, ordered them to turn in their passports and restricted their travel.

5 Have Bonds Continued

The five others in the case, all arrested by the police inside the Watergate, had bonds set earlier and these were continued by the judge. However, he eased their travel restrictions to allow them to continue working while awaiting trial.

The bail amounts for the five are \$50,000 for Frank A. Sturgis, described as a Miami soldier of fortune; \$30,000 for James W. McCord, former security director for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and \$40,000 each for Bernard L. Barker, a Miami real estate man; Eugenio R. Martinez, a salesman in Mr. Barker's firm and Virgilio R. Gonzales, a Miami locksmith.

All seven were charged with conspiring to break into the headquarters, tapping telephones, planting electronic surveillance devices and stealing and photographing documents belonging to the Democratic National Committee.

Judge Sirica gave attorneys 15 days to file pretrial motions in the case and 10 additional days to answer motions from the other side. He refused to grant more time despite arguments from defense attorneys that they needed more to prepare their cases.

Represented by Same Counsel

Last Friday, Justice Department lawyers filed a motion for the court to appoint separate counsel for Mr. Sturgis, Mr. Martinez, Mr. Barker and Mr. Gonzalez. All are represented by Henry B. Rothblatt.

When all four are represented by the same lawyer, the motion argued, there is less chance of one negotiating a plea of guilty to a lesser charge in return for cooperating with the Government.

Such plea bargaining, the motion argued, might be appropriate in the case because of the "extraordinarily strong, incriminating evidence." It noted the four were arrested with rubber surgical gloves, photographic equipment, electronic surveillance devices, burglar tools, walkie-talkie radios, chemical stunning agents and other items.

Judge Sirica ordered defense attorneys to answer the motion by Saturday.