

## Barker Gets Suspended Sentence

# Figure in Bugging Convicted

By Karlyn Barker

Washington Post Staff Writer

MIAMI, Nov. 1—Watergate bugging defendant Bernard L. Baker was found guilty today and given a 60-day suspended jail sentence on a charge of misusing his Florida notary public seal on a campaign check from a Republican fund-raiser.

Dade County Criminal Court Judge Paul L. Baker, who heard the case without a jury, placed Barker on probation and ordered that his notary public seal be forfeited.

During the brief trial, Barker's attorneys successfully rebuffed prosecution attempts to learn if the check was related to funds allegedly used in part to spy on and disrupt the campaigns of Democratic presidential candidates.

Barker, 55, was accused of misusing his notary public seal last April to validate a \$25,000 cashier's check from Kenneth H. Dahlberg, Midwest finance chairman of the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

The money, part of \$114,000 funneled through a Mexican bank, was raised for the Republican committee and deposited in Barker's Miami bank account.

On that date, Barker and four other men were arrested inside the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate. Those five and two former White House aides go on trial Jan. 8 in U.S. District Court on charges of burglary and conspiring to eavesdrop on the Democrats.

Hugh W. Sloan Jr., who resigned as treasurer of the Nixon campaign on July 17, was called to the stand twice. Sloan has said the Dahlberg check was given him by former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans, the finance chairman of the Nixon campaign. Sloan testified that he then gave the check to G. Gordon Liddy, another Watergate defendant who at the time of the break-in was financial counsel of the Nixon campaign committee.

"Who had access to the records and funds of the committee?" the prosecutor, David Goodhart, asked Sloan at one point.

"Objection," said Henry Rothblatt, Barker's attorney.

"Did you ever see the proceeds of the check again?" Goodhart continued.

"Objection," said Rothblatt, rising from his chair.

"The court is entitled to hear the surrounding circumstances of the check," argued Goodhart.

"I disagree," said Judge Baker. "The issue we are concerned with is that seal on this check. That's all."

Only once did Judge Baker allow Sloan to discuss the financial records of the re-election committee, and then only to tell how the Dahlberg check had been listed in the committee's books.

"This check was not a contribution for the committee of which I was treasurer but it was listed in the records," said Sloan. He said the money had been earmarked for distribu-

tion among "various committees" so as "not to incur a gift taxation."

Dahlberg testified that he did not know Barker and had never given him permission to deposit the cashier's check in his Miami bank account.

Hector Renaldo, vice president of the Republic National Bank in Miami, said Barker came to him with the Dahlberg check April 19 and asked him to deposit it and four other Mexican bank checks totaling \$114,000.

"I wanted him to bring Mr. Dahlberg in or else have the check notarized," said Renaldo.

Instead, the bank officer said, Barker returned the next day, showed his own notary seal on the check, and had it deposited into his account.

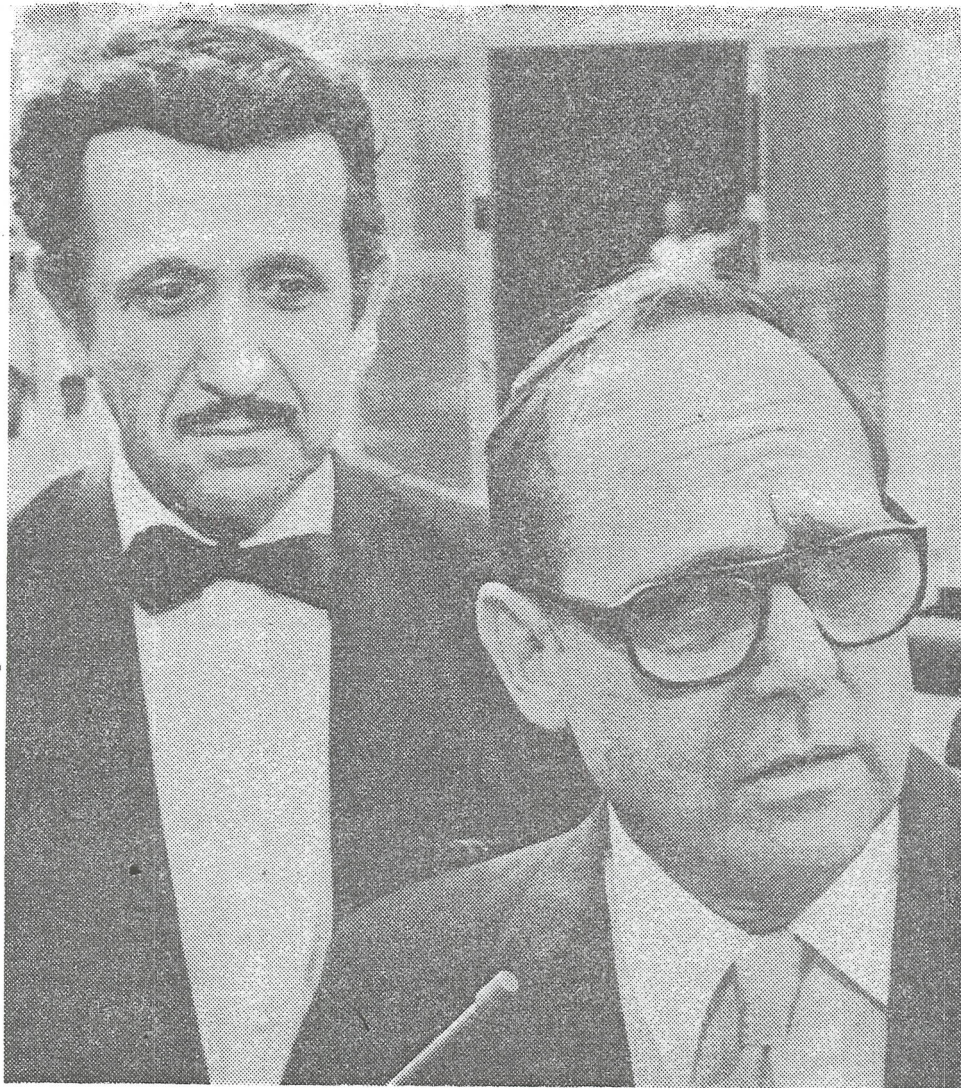
"A few days later he (Barker)

er) came back and drew out \$25,000," Renaldo said. "At least \$10,000 of it was \$100 bills." (About 53 of these \$100 bills, according to court testimony by government prosecutors, were found on the five men arrested inside the Watergate.)

Rothblatt, who said he would appeal the decision, described Barker as a "very honorable man" and an American patriot who "has been condemned before being convicted" by reports about the Watergate incident.

It took Judge Baker less than a minute to announce a verdict of guilty.

Barker's family and friends crowded around him afterwards, obviously pleased at the suspended sentence. Another Watergate defendant, Frank Sturgis, hugged Barker.



Associated Press

## Found Guilty

Bernard L. Barker, right, accompanied by lawyer Henry Rothblatt, was convicted in Miami of misusing notary public seal on GOP campaign check. Story on Page A13.