

White House Staffers to Testify

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Watergate Bugging Trial Begins

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Trial began in U.S. District Court today for seven men accused of breaking into the Democratic Party national headquarters here, and the government prosecutor presented a list of expected witnesses including several present and former Nixon administration and campaign staffers.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Earl J. Silbert read a list of 60 government witnesses to prospective jurors as jury selection began for what is expected to be an extended trial into the "Watergate affair" which figured prominently in the 1972 presidential election.

Among those Silbert said he expected to call as witnesses are Jeb Magruder, former White House official and a key man in President Nixon's reelection campaign; Fred Fielding, an attorney at the White House; Bruce Kehrli, a White House secretary; Hugh W. Sloan, former treasurer of the Finance Committee to Reelect the President; and Robert C. Odle Jr., who was director of administration for the committee for the Re-election of the President.

The jury will be sequestered to insulate it from the anticipated glare of publicity. Because of the controversy and high interest in the case, 1,000 prospective jurors have been called.

The defendants, including former White House aides and officials of President Nixon's reelection campaign, are charged with breaking into the Democratic National Committee's headquarters in Washington's Watergate complex.

FIVE OF the men were captured at gunpoint inside the sixth-floor offices at 4:30 a.m. last June 17 at a time when Democrats were winding up a long run of presidential primary races.

The incident immediately became a campaign issue because of the links between the men and the Nixon administration and campaign. But the White House and Republican party have consistently denied any connection with the break-in and the alleged related electronic eavesdropping and theft of documents.

Just how deeply the trial would delve into the political implications of the case remained a mystery, but the possibility continued that witnesses could include some men near the top in the administration and the Republican party.

CONGRESSIONAL attempts to bring some kind of official inquiry into the open before the Nov. 7 presidential election failed, making this trial the first public display of an official investigation.

So far, most of the investigation which has reached the public has been conducted by news media, which have reported allegations that the break-in was part of a wide-scale campaign of political espionage and sabotage against Democrats.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield disclosed over the weekend that he has ordered a full-scale Senate investigation, ensuring a probe into any political areas that might be overlooked by the trial.

In a pretrial hearing last week, Charles Morgan Jr., a lawyer representing a number of Democratic officials and party employes, said he had information that the govern-

ment prosecutors would try to show that blackmail, and not politics, was the motive behind the bugging.

ASST. U. S. Atty. Earl J. Silbert has said he intends to offer evidence "from which the jury may draw, we think, an appropriate inference as to perhaps a variety of interests."

Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica has said he would not brook a prosecution which treats the case as just another burglary.

"This jury is going to have to know what did these men go into that headquarters for," Sirica said at a pretrial conference. "Was their sole purpose political espionage? Were they paid? Was there financial gain? Who hired them? Who started this?"

THE DEFENDANTS are:

—George Gordon Liddy, a former White House and Treasury Department aide, who also was counsel for the Finance Committee to Re-

elect the President until he was fired after refusing to answer some questions from the FBI.

—Everett Howard Hunt Jr., author of spy novels, who had been a White House consultant working under top Nixon aide Charles Colson.

—James W. McCord Jr., a former security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

—Bernard L. Barker, a Cuban-born American who heads a real estate corporation in Miami. He already has been convicted in Miami of unlawfully notarizing a \$25,000 check—representing money contributed to the Nixon campaign—and given a suspended 60-day term.

—Eugenia R. Martinez, an employe of the Barker firm and active in the anti-Castro movement in Miami.