

# Watergate Trial Jurors Picked Quickly

By Lawrence Meyer  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Moving with surprising speed, prosecution and defense lawyers yesterday picked a jury of eight women and four men, ranging in age from 28 to 81, to sit in judgment of the seven defendants in the Watergate bugging trial.

Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, brushing aside the objections of defense lawyers that they were not being allowed to question prospective jurors in enough detail,

speeded the selection process so that it was completed in only two days.

Sirica told the jury and the six alternates, comprising three men and three women ranging in age from 39 to 55, that the trial would begin today with opening statements. The jury and alternates were sequestered, as they will be until the trial's conclusion, on the seventh and eighth floors of the U.S. District Court here.

The jury selected is basically middle-aged and working class. From the court descriptions, only one juror, now retired, seems to be or have been in white-collar work.

The jury selection process began Monday with about 250 prospective jurors. By the end of the day, Sirica had excused 150 jurors, all but five of whom were dismissed after explaining that the sequestration would impose serious hardships. The other five were dismissed for "cause," that is for giving answers to questions posed by Sirica that indicated that they might not be able to

reach a verdict without being affected by considerations other than the law and evidence presented in the trial.

Yesterday morning, Sirica resumed asking the prospective jurors questions concerning the possible effect that pretrial publicity might have on their judgment in the case. All but eight of the approximately 100 jurors left yesterday morning said they had read, heard or seen publicity about the Watergate case. Sirica then began calling he jur-

See WATERGATE, A14, Col. 1

## WATERGATE, From A1

rors who said they knew about the case into a conference room to question them, in the presence of prosecution and

defense lawyers, about what they knew.

Only about nine prospective jurors were questioned individually before Sirica declared a lunch recess. Of those, two were dismissed for "cause," according to one defense lawyer, Gerald Alch. Alch said later that the defense lawyers assumed that Sirica would resume the individual questioning after lunch. Sirica, however, said that he wanted to speed up the process.

After eight prospective jurors remained seated when Sirica asked how many had heard, read or seen anything about the case, the judge asked one woman, "You didn't hear about the Watergate case?" She said, "No." "You didn't read about it or hear about it on the radio?" Sirica asked. "No," she replied.

"Incredible," Sirica said.

After lunch, Sirica returned to the bench and began questioning the jurors as a group, calling to the bench those who rose in response to his questions. The questions covered publicity about the case, whether any of the prospective jurors knew any of the prospective witnesses, had formed opinions about the guilt or innocence of the defendants, had relatives who were law enforcement officers or for any reason could not reach a verdict based solely on the evidence presented and the law.

The pool of prospective jurors, according to Sirica, stood at 97 or 98 when names were called to seat prospective jurors in the jury box.

Sirica announced that the prosecution and defense each would have 30 peremptory challenges to exercise in selecting jurors. Sirica gave each side another six challenges to exercise in selecting alternates.

During the recess, Alch and Henry Rothblatt, another defense lawyer, both expressed dissatisfaction that Sirica had not continued interviewing

jurors individually before ending the voir dire, or questioning process. "We felt that just to ask the blanket question almost invited the nonresponse," Alch said. "If there's a conviction, this will certainly be grounds for appeal."

Although each side had 30 peremptory challenges, the prosecution exercised only two and the defense only 10. Rothblatt and Alch said after the

jury and alternates were selected that they could not intelligently exercise any more challenges because they did not know enough about the prospective jurors. Both sides were supplied with forms listing only the names, ages, occupations and addresses of the prospective jurors.

Before the jurors and the alternates were sworn, Sirica asked each group separately: "Does any reason whatsoever suggest itself . . . as to why you will be unable to sit as a juror in this case, that you will be able to join in a verdict based solely on the evidence in the case." No juror or alternate responded.

Sirica then told the seven defendants to rise and face the jurors as they were sworn in.

The defendants are:

- G. Gordon Liddy, 42, a former White House and Treasury Department aide who was fired as finance counsel for the Committee for the Re-election of the President after he refused to answer FBI questions about the alleged bugging of the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters.

- E. Howard Hunt Jr., 54, a former White House aide and 21-year veteran of the CIA.

- Bernard L. Barker, 55, a Cuban exile and Miami real estate dealer arrested with four other men inside Democratic Party headquarters on June 17.

- James W. McCord Jr., 53, former security coordinator of the President's re-election committee and a 19-year veteran of the CIA, who also was arrested inside the Watergate.

- Frank A. Sturgis, 37, a Norfolk-born soldier of fortune who fought with Fidel Castro and later joined the anti-Castro community in Miami. Sturgis also was arrested inside the Watergate.

- Eugenio R. Martinez, 49, a business associate of Barker's, a Cuban exile and minor functionary for the CIA who also was arrested inside the Watergate.

- Virgilio R. Gonzales, 45, a Cuban exile and a Miami locksmith who was arrested inside the Watergate.

The seven men are charged with conspiracy, burglary and

violation of federal and District of Columbia wiretap law. The eight-count indictment charges them with conspiring to steal documents and eavesdrop on the Democrats' Watergate headquarters.

## Watergate Jury,

### Alternates Listed

Eight women and four men were selected yesterday as jurors in the Watergate trial. Six alternate jurors were also selected.

Those on the panel are:

Jessie M. Byers, 32, of 136 Adams St. NW, a telephone operator for the Capital Cab Co.

Raymond Brenna, 61, of 1333 Hemlock St. NW, a retired official of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Daniel Gause, 39, of 5521 Colorado Ave. NW, an ink maker at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Louise Jones, 42, of 1922 S St. SE, an employee of the food department at Leader Drugs Inc.

Annie Williams, 47, of 1401 Sheridan St. NW, a postage stamp worker in the U.S. Post Office.

Marie P. Logan, 64, of 1227 47th Pl. NE, unemployed.

Gabriel Oleaga, 60, of 1115 12th St. NW, a waiter, Waiter's Union Local 781.

Marion E. Duncan, 28, of 651 Morton St. NW, a nurse's aide at the Washington Hospital Center.

Mary W. Goldman, 81, of 2511 P St. NW, a housewife.

Kathryn E. Lee, 57, of 3638 13th St. NW, a housewife.

Laverne Johnson, 43, of 603 Jeff St. NE, a hostess with the Macke Vending Machine Corp.

Marvin Wideman, 59, of 4007 4th St. NW, a cook.

The alternate jurors are:

John J. Burnette, 39, a statistical clerk with the Census Bureau.

Rudolph H. Cotton, 42, a foreman at the U.S. Post Office.

Mary E. Leonard, 53, a shirt folder with Manhattan Laundry.

Lillie M. Towles, 49, a computer operator at the Navy Yard Annex.

Bernard L. Coats, 42, a letter carrier with the U.S. Post Office.

John S. Bywaters, 55, a museum aide at the National Gallery of Art.