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Watergate defendants warn they won't take rap alone

WASHINGTON—Some of the defendants in the Watergate trial are sending quiet signals to the Nixon Administration that they may start talking before they'll go to prison.

Sources close to former White House advisers G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt say both men have dropped hints, intended for White House ears, that they have some embarrassing revelations they could tell. They want to get across the message that they don't intend to take the rap for the higher-ups who directed the Republican espionage-sabotage operations.

Barker preparing a book

Bernard Barker, who recruited the wire-tap crew that broke into Democratic headquarters, has also let it be known that he is preparing to write a book about his experiences. Sources in touch with him have passed the word that the book could be highly embarrassing if he is left "to rot in jail" for carrying out orders.

One of Barker's boys, Frank Sturgis, has also sounded out publishers through an agent about doing a book after the trial.

Defense sources say that Henry Rothblatt, the high-powered attorney for four of the men caught at gunpoint inside Democratic headquarters, is also unhappy. He is quoted as complaining that the higher-ups haven't delivered all the money they promised for the defense.

One problem, say these sources, is that congressional investigators are subpoenaing the bank records of everyone involved in the Watergate caper. This makes it necessary for the secret benefactors to deal strictly in cash.

Part of secret fund

The \$10,000 in greenbacks, found on the body of Hunt's wife after she died in a Chicago airliner crash, was part of the secret defense fund, the sources acknowledge.

None of the defendants would make a statement for the record. Rothblatt has refused to discuss where the money for the defense is coming from.

FUN IN THE SUN

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Jack Anderson

around the world, President Nixon's drug fighters are having San Clemente

Sturgis - see Wx Post story in SFChronicle
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