

# Watergate Trial

## New Spy Guilt Pleas Seen

WASHINGTON — (AP) — More guilty pleas are expected in the Watergate trial, after a mysterious closed-door court session.

Four of the defendants are under pressure to plead guilty and avoid further trial, as did former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt.

But at least two, G. Gordon Liddy and James McCord, are reported holding out for a full trial that may take many weeks.

No public business was conducted yesterday in the trial of the six remaining persons charged in the break-in and alleged bugging last June 17 of Democratic National Headquarters in Washington's Watergate complex.

U.S. District Court Judge John Sirica moved it into a surprise closed-door session in the afternoon with only the defendants, their lawyers, and a hastily summoned Spanish interpreter present.

### Ban on Comments

Sirica ordered a ban on comments by the defendants on their counsels, but reports of what might be happening filled the courthouse.

Henry Rothblatt, New York lawyer defending four Miami defendants was questioned about reports the group might replace him with an attorney who would agree to enter a guilty plea.

"This could happen. An attorney can be dismissed at any time," Rothblatt replied.

But he added he was "not leaving the case. I'll be back Monday, and I may very well continue this trial."

Rothblatt is reported to oppose a guilty plea by clients, fearing it would gain them nothing and might

even raise the ire of Sirica, who has said from the bench he wants to get to the bottom of the Watergate matter during the trial.

Another incident adding to the speculation came during a morning recess when one of Rothblatt's clients was seen handing an envelope to the prosecutors.

Asked if there was a possibility of guilty pleas being offered, Rothblatt said, "not by me."

Meanwhile, reports persisted that the Miami defendants, all with Cuban backgrounds, may plead guilty.

Newsday, a Long Island, N.Y., newspaper, reported the four had been promised \$1000 each for every month they spend in jail and an undisclosed lump sum when they get out of prison if they plead guilty.

The paper said sources close to the defendants identified the group promising the cash only as "friends from Miami," including, the paper said, a prominent figure in the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion.

### Denies Report

Rothblatt denied the Newsday report.

The sudden appearance in Sirica's closed session of the interpreter — to aid three of the defendants whose primary language is Spanish — added to the speculation an important development was imminent.

Sirica had earlier ruled an interpreter would be used only when one of the Spanish-speaking defendants was testifying or being instructed on technical legal matters.

The Miami defendants are Bernard Barker, real estate executive, and three of his associates, Eugenio Martinez, Frank Sturgis and Virgilio Gonzalez.