

Witness Says Liddy Alluded To Superiors

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Testimony in the Watergate bugging trial yesterday indicated that G. Gordon Liddy, described by prosecutors as the "boss" of the bugging of Democratic headquarters, had, in fact, been reporting to other persons.

Answering questions from Chief Judge John J. Sirica, former Nixon campaign treasurer Hugh W. Sloan Jr. recalled a brief conversation with Liddy on the morning of June 17, only a few hours after police had arrested five men inside the Watergate.

Sloan quoted Liddy, who was then finance counsel for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, as saying to him in a hall at committee headquarters:

"My boys were caught last night. I made a mistake by using someone from here, which I told them I would never do. I'm afraid I'll lose my job."

Sirica did not ask Sloan if he knew who Liddy meant by "them." Sloan, a prosecution witness, was dismissed after defense lawyers said they had no questions to ask him.

Earlier, Sloan testified that Finance chairman Maurice Stans and campaign director John N. Mitchell approved disbursements of about \$199,000 to Liddy. Sloan also acknowledged for the first time that he resigned from the committee last July because of the Watergate incident.

In other testimony yesterday:

• Sloan and Herbert L. Porter, scheduling director for the re-election committee, both testified that they had destroyed records that showed disbursements they had made to Liddy.

• Former deputy campaign director Jeb Stuart Magruder said he knew nothing of the illegal bugging activities but he did give Liddy political intelligence gathering assignments. Magruder gave only one example of such an assignment and

was not asked to give more.

• Magruder testified that he hired Liddy for a legal job with the re-election committee on the recommendation of White House counsel John Dean III, the man President Nixon later assigned to investigate the bugging.

• Porter said \$100,000 was allocated for Liddy to gather information on possible violence during the campaign by having persons infiltrate the Yippies, SDS and other "radical" groups.

• Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert attacked a column by Jack Anderson for "outrageous speculation" and "virtually scandalous reporting" because the column suggested that initials found on a piece of evidence might be those of re-election committee officials. In fact, Silbert said, the initials were those of three FBI agents who had marked the evidence.

• Robert C. Odle Jr., administrative director of the re-election committee, testified that committee security director James W. McCord Jr. had given him 17 memoranda concerning McCord's activities as security director. Odle said "nothing we ever received would indicate" that McCord had set up a listening post in the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge to monitor phone conversations from the Democratic Party's Watergate offices across the street.

Liddy and McCord are on trial on charges of conspiracy, burglary and illegal wiretapping and eavesdropping stemming from the June 17 break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters. Five other persons, including former White House aide E. Howard Hunt Jr., already have pleaded guilty to the charges.

Sloan, testifying in answer to questions by Silbert, said he turned over a total of about \$199,000 to Liddy from the time Liddy joined the re-election committee until June 1972. Sloan said that before the April 7 effective date of a

new federal campaign finance reporting law, he made a final summary financial statement and turned it over to Stans. Sloan said he "destroyed the cash book" containing actual records of disbursements.

Sloan first gave his account of his hallway conversation with Liddy under questioning from Silbert, and said he did not know what Liddy was talking about. He repeated it when Sirica sent the jury out and questioned Sloan himself. The judge then asked Sloan how Liddy was to use the money Sloan had given him earlier.

"I was merely authorized" to distribute the money Sloan answered. "I have no idea what the purpose was."

"You didn't question Mr. Magruder about the purpose of the \$199,000?" Sirica asked.

"No, sir. I verified with Mr. Stans and Mr. Mitchell. He (Magruder) was authorized to make those," Sloan replied. When Sirica again asked who he verified it with, Sloan replied, "with (former Commerce) Secretary Stans and I didn't directly but he verified it with Mr. John Mitchell."

"Didn't anybody indicate any of the money was used for?" Sirica asked.

"No, sir," Sloan replied.

Magruder, who left the re-election committee the day after the election to direct preparations for the President's inaugural, testified that Liddy was hired in December, 1971, to do political, legal and intelligence work. In late December, Magruder said, he and Porter discussed potential problems of violence they might have aimed at the "surrogate candidates" who would be campaigning for President Nixon.

Since the stand-in candidates would not have Secret Service protection, Magruder said, "We felt we had to establish our own lines of communication. Magruder said he met with Liddy and Porter for five minutes and Liddy then began gathering intelligence.

In January, 1972, Magruder said, he gave Liddy an additional assignment to find out what kind of demonstrations were planned for the Republican convention, which was then scheduled to be held in San Diego. For the two projects, Magruder said, Liddy was authorized to spend \$250,000.

Magruder said he had emphasized to Liddy that "acts of our committee would be handled in a legal and ethical manner."

Asked what information Liddy had provided about the convention from the \$150,000 intelligence operation, Magruder said Liddy found out that

instead of the expected 100,000 demonstrators, the Republicans could expect 250,000. For this reason, in part, the convention site was changed to Miami, Magruder said.

Magruder said he never gave Liddy any intelligence assignment regarding the Democratic National Committee or Sen. George McGovern.

On brief cross examination by McCord's lawyer, Magruder said McCord "was one of our more outstanding employees." Liddy's lawyer, Peter Maroulis, did not question Magruder.

Porter testified that he obtained about \$35,000 from Sloan to give to Liddy. It was not explained yesterday why Liddy got some money directly from Sloan but had to deal through Porter for other money. In all, according to testimony yesterday, Liddy got about \$232,000. No accounting was given as to how that money was used by Liddy. Silbert has said the government can account for only about \$50,000 of the total.

Porter said he "threw away" the records he had of the disbursements he made to Liddy.

Porter said he got three pieces of information for the money he gave Liddy, concerning a "left-wing extremist group in New Hampshire," "a right-wing extremist group in Miami" and a "Heavy potential problem in San Diego."

Neither Liddy's lawyer nor McCord's cross-examined Porter.

Odle was the first of the re-election committee officials to testify. Odle said one of McCord's jobs, as security director for the committee, was "to be concerned with threats of violence against the buildings in which the committee was housed." McCord made reports on possible violence to him, Odle said.

Seventeen memos from McCord to Odle, including the May 30 one, were introduced in evidence yesterday by McCord's attorney. It is not known whether the 17 memos were the only ones that McCord sent to Odle. Most of the memos simply summarize news reports of demonstrations, bombings and other incidents of violence.

One refers to the Pentagon bombing of May, 1972. It says that the bomb was apparently "packed into a wall cavity behind a small steel door" in the Pentagon washroom stalls. "Such doors in committee restrooms have been sealed," McCord said in the memo.

Another memo dated, Dec. 13, 1971, calls for the control of access to the offices of the Committee for the Re-election

of the President.

One of the memos to Odle, dated May 30—five days after the wiretap and dealing with Vietnam Veterans Against the War—began with the phrase “A confidential source of known reliability has advised . . .”—The phrase is almost identical to one that Alfred C. Baldwin III testified was used by McCord in identifying the source of wiretapped conversations. Investigators, however, say they are convinced the information did not come from overhearing wiretapped conversations.

In his testimony Monday, Baldwin said he could not remember the name of the person to whom he once addressed a package containing memos of wiretapped conversations, and that he did not know from his “own personal knowledge” who received other memos containing information from the wiretaps.

Earlier, The Washington Post reported that Baldwin had told the FBI he saw memos of wiretapped conversations addressed on at least one occasion to William Timmons, special assistant to President Nixon for congressional relations, and to Odle.

Following Baldwin's testimony on Monday, investiga-

tors said that the FBI's report of Baldwin's original statements was unclear and had, in fact, referred to memos to Timmons and Odle which were not based on information obtained through wiretapping.

When they examined the memos sent to Timmons and Odle, the investigators said, they could find no evidence that the contents were related to the wiretap at Democratic headquarters.



Sketch by Betty Wells

GOP campaign aide Hugh W. Sloan Jr. testifies at Watergate bugging trial.