

Defense Says Liddy Spy Boss

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Watergate defense lawyer conceded today that Nixon campaign official G. Gordon Liddy headed a political intelligence operation but denied he had anything to do with burglary and wiretapping.

He spoke in the closing stages of the trial which grew out of the break-in and alleged bugging of Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate building complex in Washington last June.

"We don't take issue with the fact that Mr. Liddy was the boss," defense attorney Peter Maroulis said.

But Maroulis argued that Liddy, who was general counsel for the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President, was engaged in legitimate information gathering, including a warning of potential violence which led the Republican Party, he said, to move its convention from San Diego to Miami Beach last summer.

"It was a very important decision to move that convention from San Diego to Miami," Maroulis said. "And that was done on information from my client."

"That was not the recommendation of a burglar," Maroulis said in his closing arguments to the jury.

The case was expected to reach the jury later today.

MAROULIS ALSO attacked the reliability of the two principal prosecution witnesses, saying they offered "fabricated and embellished" testimony in order to protect themselves.

A particular target of Maroulis was Thomas Gregory, a Brigham Young University student, who testified that Liddy attended meetings to plan a break-in to plant electronic bugs at campaign headquarters of Sen. George McGovern. He said Gregory offered his testimony because, "he was afraid for his own skin."

Maroulis also challenged former FBI agent Alfred C. Baldwin III, who testified that Liddy was present in a motel room in which Baldwin was monitoring calls from a tapped telephone in Democratic Party headquarters.

Maroulis said Baldwin's testimony was "something less than crystal clarity," and declared, "Mr. Baldwin was worried about his own well being."

Liddy is one of two remaining de-

fendants in the case, being tried before District Judge John J. Sirica. The other defendant is James W. McCord Jr., who was security chief of the Nixon campaign.

MCCORD'S LAWYER, Gerald Alch, conceded that his client was caught in the act of burglarizing the Democratic headquarters, but he said McCord was justifiably motivated by fear for the safety of the Nixon campaign.

"Mr. McCord was inside the Watergate, that's a fact," Alch said. "But Jim McCord is not a burglar. His motivation and intent was not that of a burglar."

Alch said that his defense rested in "trying to distinguish his state of mind from all others" and establish that McCord was driven by a reasonable concern.

"That chief factor was his job as chief of security for the Re-election

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Committee," Alch said in his closing arguments.

Alch read off to the jury in rapid-fire fashion a list of violent demonstrations which occurred across the country in the spring of 1972.

"Mr. McCord discerned a link between this violence and the Democratic campaign," Alch said and argued that his client was only seeking information which would help members of the Nixon Republican campaign to defend themselves.

"Is it so unreasonable to infer that

perhaps these groups would call the Democratic National Committee and say 'We're coming to Washington tomorrow, three and four thousand strong?'" Alch asked. "This information would be invaluable to Mr. McCord and invaluable to the Republican Party."

E. Howard Hunt, a White House consultant, pleaded guilty on the third day of trial. Four other men, Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank A. Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzalez of Miami, pleaded guilty a few days later.