

Two Jailed to Await Sentence After Watergate Conviction

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two former top officials of President Nixon's re-election campaign were in jail today after being convicted of burglarizing and wiretapping Democratic party headquarters.

A jury of eight women and four men took only 90 minutes — about the time required to elect a foreman and go over the eight-count indictment—before reporting guilty verdicts Tuesday night against G. Gordon Liddy and James W. McCord Jr.

Liddy was legal counsel for the Committee for the Re-election of the President and later for its financial arm. McCord, a 20-year CIA veteran, was security chief for the Nixon campaign at the time of his arrest.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Earl J. Silbert said the verdicts "help restore faith in our political system that was so badly damaged."

U.S. Dist. Court Judge John J. Sirica ordered both men jailed immediately without bond pending sentencing. Defense lawyers filed bond motions today and the government indicated it was ready to respond with oral arguments at 10 a.m. Thursday.

Liddy was convicted of six counts, including conspiracy, burglary, planting bugs and intercepting telephone conversations from phones tapped inside the Democratic offices in the Watergate complex.

McCord, one of five men arrested at gunpoint inside the Watergate in the pre-dawn hours last June 17, was convicted of the same offenses in addition to two of possessing electronic listening and wire-tapping devices.

Although sentencing awaits a probation officer's report, McCord could get up to 60 years in jail and a \$60,000 fine and Liddy 50 years and a \$40,000 fine. However, the actual sentence is expected to be less because of overlapping elements in the indictment.

MCCORD'S LAWYER never denied that McCord was captured in the act of burglary, but he tried to persuade the jury that McCord was justified because he was trying to protect the Nixon campaign from violent demonstrators.

"Mr. McCord was arrested inside the Watergate, that's a fact," attorney Gerald Alch told the jury. "But Jim McCord is not a burglar. His

motivation and intent was not that of a burglar."

There was a factor which made McCord's actions different, Alch said. "That chief factor was his job as security for the re-election committee."

Alch said McCord had determined there were links between the Democrats and groups behind violent demonstrations. But Silbert argued there was no real evidence to support this as a motive for wiretapping.

"THEY WERE looking for political strategy," Silbert said, "things of a personal nature."

And Judge Sirica added in charging the jury: "nor is an allegedly good motive ever a defense . . ."

Peter Maroulis, attorney for Liddy, argued that his client was merely trying to carry out orders to gather useful intelligence by legal means and that underlings carried it beyond the law.

Maroulis said Liddy had provided useful intelligence to the Nixon committee, including the prediction of massive demonstrations which he said was a leading consideration in the decision to move last year's Republican National Convention from San Diego, Calif., to Miami Beach, Fla.

"That was not the recommendation of a burglar," Maroulis said.

But, while Silbert proposed that Liddy's superiors had passed on innocent orders, he said they turned crooked in Liddy's execution. He particularly attacked Maroulis' concession that Liddy had destroyed the intelligence reports he had received from his operatives.

"FOR AN EX-DA and an ex-FBI agent to destroy evidence," Silbert said. "That is as close to an admission of guilt as you could be given."

The guilty verdicts concluded the prosecution of the seven men charged in connection with the Watergate break-in. The other five, including a former White House consultant, pleaded guilty.

The Watergate case became one of the leading issues of last year's presidential election, but the trial of the only men arrested in the case left more questions than it answered.

The only related charges

were disposed of last week when the Nixon campaign committee pleaded no contest and was fined \$8,000 for violations of the new campaign finance law.

A PART OF the charges, filed against the committee and not individual violators, involved payments to Liddy to finance a political intelligence-gathering operation.

The spotlight now turns to the Senate where preparations are under way for Watergate hearings. Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., who will head the Senate investigation, has indicated he plans to subpoena everybody whose name has been mentioned in news reports of alleged widespread political espionage and sabotage during last year's campaigns.

Neither Liddy nor McCord took the stand in his own defense. And defendants E. Howard Hunt, Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank A. Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzalez pleaded guilty shortly after the trial opened.