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Liddy Given 8 Months For Refusing to Talk

Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica yesterday held Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy in contempt of court for his refusal to testify before a federal grand jury that is continuing to investigate the case.

Liddy, according to a transcript of the grand jury session read in court, repeatedly invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in response to questions about the Watergate incident and whether anyone besides the seven men already convicted was involved.

"To give meaning and coercive impact to the court's contempt powers," Sirica—in effect—added up to eight months to the jail term Liddy is presently serving for his part in the bugging of Democratic headquarters last spring.

In an action that legal observers said was extremely unusual, Sirica interrupted the minimum six-year, eight-month jail term Liddy already serving and ordered it resumed only after the contempt sentence runs out or Liddy agrees to talk.

The contempt sentence can last no longer than the term

of the grand jury which expires in December.

In addition, Sirica said that Liddy will continue to be kept at the D.C. jail instead of being transferred to the federal penitentiary at Danbury, Conn., as he had requested.

Liddy's lawyer, Peter Maroulis, said he would appeal the contempt citation to the U.S. Cour of Appeals.

Liddy, a former White House and re-election aide, was discribed by prosecutors again yesterday as being in the most strategic position to say whether other persons were implicated in any way in the Watergate affair.

Coconspirator James W. McCord Jr. reportedly has told a Senate committee in closed session that Liddy told him that high-ranking presidential aides knew of and were involved in the bugging.

Over the objection of Liddy's lawyer, and with the consent of clearly reluctant prosecutors, Sirica had the transcript of Friday's grand jury session, one of three appearances made by Liddy in the past week, read in open court.

Under questioning, Liddy invoked the Fifth Amendment

32 times, according to the transcript. He refused to answer the question put to him in a variety of ways about whether "any other persons participated . . . directly or indirectly" in the Watergate bugging.

He declined also to respond to questions about whether he learned "in any way, from any source" the purpose of the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters on June 16, 1972.

McCord was ordered yesterday to appear before the grand jury at 10 a.m. yesterday. McCord, the former security director for President Nixon's re-election committee, spent the day yesterday giving a deposition to Republican lawyers in a civil suit arising out of the Watergate case.