

'Watergate Liddy' Finds Legal 'Career' Behind Bars

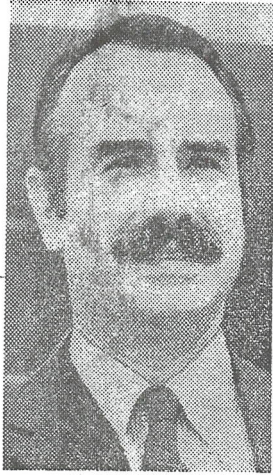
By William Claiborne
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Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy, who was injured in a fight with another prisoner at the D.C. jail last week, has been providing legal advice to fellow inmates, court sources said yesterday.

Since the March 26 altercation, in which he suffered a cut on his ear and a bruise on his nose, Liddy has been involved in no further incidents with other prisoners, jail officials said.

Superior Court sources said Liddy has assisted some prisoners at the jail in preparing "per se" motions in pending criminal cases. Such documents are routinely filed in the court by prisoners in their own behalf and usually seek dismissal of charges on technical grounds.

Sources said that Liddy, who reportedly has been nicknamed "Watergate Liddy" by some fellow prisoners who have sought legal assistance, has become more accepted by the inmate population as a result of his law background. He was a lawyer before his conviction for his part in the break-in and eavesdropping at Demo-



G. GORDON LIDDY
... nickname: "Watergate"

cratic National Committee headquarters here.

Liddy was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica to at least six years and eight months in jail. Sirica interrupted the sentence and ordered Liddy to serve up to eight months for contempt for refusing to answer questions before a federal grand jury. The jury will be dismissed in eight months, and Liddy can purge himself of contempt if he testifies before that time.

Jail officials said yester-

day that Liddy is confined in a medium security wing of the century-old jail and is living alone.

The wing traditionally has been occupied by sentenced offenders who serve their terms at the jail instead of Lorton Reformatory, and by prisoners who are assigned to regular work details, such as the prison kitchen.

The doors to the rooms can be locked by inmates for privacy. However, prisoners in that section are permitted to leave the doors open and move about the prison to eat in a common mess hall or watch television in a recreation room.

According to Deputy Supt. Alphonse Washington, Liddy is receiving "no special treatment" at the jail.

Washington said that the jail has a regulation prohibiting prisoners from actually writing briefs for other prisoners and said through a spokesman that as far as he knows, the regulation is not being violated.

He said prisoners have continual access to public defender service attorneys and are encouraged to seek outside assistance in the actual writing of briefs and petitions.