

# Liddy Tried to Buy 'A Small Arsenal'



**Jack Anderson**

**G**. GORDON LIDDY flashed his White House pass in an effort to buy a "small arsenal" of pistols a year ago apparently for arming his Watergate burglary-wiretap team.

Unfortunately for Liddy, the Virginia gun dealer to whom he nervously showed his credentials had recently been in trouble for selling antitank guns to a man who used one to stick up a Brink's vault.

So the dealer turned Liddy down and called up the Treasury Department's gun-control unit to report the visit. There an official verified that Liddy held a White House pass. But Liddy never came back for the five to 10 pistols he had sought.

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**I**F HE HAD, the Watergate might have erupted in gunfire on the morning of June 17 when Liddy's team was trapped inside Democratic National headquarters. On the other hand, if Treasury had pursued the case of Liddy's attempted purchases, the White House or the Nixon campaign committee might have become sufficiently alarmed to fire him.

Instead, it was left to the sleuths of Representative John Murphy (Dem-N.Y.), a strong advocate of gun controls, to turn up Liddy's mysterious Virginia mission. The gun dealer, who had provided Murphy with leads on his gun bill, quietly notified the Congressman's aides of the Liddy visit a few weeks ago.

The dealer, exacting a vow of silence

on his name, told the Murphy gumshoes that Liddy came to his shop about a year ago, shortly after leaving his White House job to join the Nixon campaign staff as general counsel.

"There was something wrong about him," recalled the dealer, "you know, he acted a little flaky." Liddy, said the dealer, wanted to buy "a small arsenal of pistols."

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**A**S THE DEALER remembered it, Liddy gave the strong impression that the guns were not just for himself, but also for associates involved in a mutual venture.

Liddy has a large collection of guns. He is so fanatical about firearms that he was regarded as the gun lobby's "man in the White House."

Murphy has quietly turned over his findings to Senator Sam Ervin, (Dem-N.C.), whose special committee is investigating the Watergate break-in and related political sabotage and espionage.

**Footnote:** Liddy's wife rented a safety deposit box at the Marine Midland Bank of Southeastern New York in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., last August 7. At the same time, she left a padlocked trunk valued at \$2500 in the bank's "silver storage room." Mrs. Liddy confirmed to us she made the rentals, but insisted it was for "personal" effects. Liddy reportedly has been paid large sums of hush money to keep his mouth shut about the Watergate case.