

A Chronology of Events in the Watergate Case: An Election Scheme That Backfired

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Arrest of 5 Last June 17 Began National Scandal

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 30—Following is a chronology of major events in the Watergate case: 1972

June 17—Bernard L. Barker, James M. McCord, Frank A. Sturgis, Eugenio R. Martinez and Virgilio R. Gonzalez were arrested at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee and charged with burglary. They had eavesdropping equipment in their possession.

June 19—McCord ousted as chief security officer for the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

June 20—The Democratic National Committee chairman, Lawrence F. O'Brien, filed a \$1-million suit against the re-election committee.

June 28—G. Gordon Liddy, a lawyer for the re-election committee, was discharged by former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, chairman of the committee, for refusing to answer F.B.I. questions about the case.

July 1—Mr. Mitchell resigned as President Nixon's campaign manager. Clark MacGregor was named to succeed him.

July 13—A Washington lawyer, Douglas Caddy, who had briefly represented the five men arrested June 17, was found in contempt of court by District Court Judge John J. Sirica for refusing to answer a series of grand jury questions about the case.

July 14—Hugh W. Sloan Jr., re-election committee treasurer, resigned.

Aug. 19—Wright Patman, chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, ordered a staff investigation of the case.

Aug. 26—General Accounting Office reported "apparent violations" of the Federal Election Campaign Act by the re-election committee.

Aug. 28—Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst promised that the Justice Department's investigation of the case would be "the most extensive, thorough and comprehensive investigation since the assassination of President Kennedy."

Aug. 29—President Nixon said in a news conference: ". . . no one in the White House staff, no one in this Administration, presently employed, was involved. . . ."

Aug. 31—News reports indicated that Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former White House consultant, were in the Watergate complex the night of the break-in.

Sept. 2—Mr. Mitchell, testifying in the Democrats' suit against the re-election committee, said he had no advance knowledge of the bugging incident.

Sept. 11—Barker admitted his role in the break-in, but wouldn't implicate others. Democrats filed an amended complaint accusing Maurice H. Stans, Liddy, Sloan and Hunt of political espionage, in addition to the original five defendants.

Sept. 13—House Banking and Currency Committee staff report said that Mr. Stans had approved the transfer of \$100,000 in campaign funds through Mexico to conceal the identity of the donors. The re-election committee filed a \$2.5-million suit against the Democrats, charging that the Democrats were abusing the court.

Sept. 14—Mr. Stans filed a \$5-million suit against Mr. O'Brien.

Sept. 15—A Federal grand jury returned an eight-count indictment against the five men arrested in the break-in and Liddy and Hunt. The charges including tapping telephones, planting electronic eavesdropping devices and stealing documents.

Sept. 20—News articles said that two re-election committee officials, Robert C. Mardian and Frederick La Rue, had destroyed financial records of the group after the bugging incident.

Sept. 21—Judge Charles A. Richey halted all proceedings in the Democrats' suit against the re-election committee until completion of the criminal trial.

Sept. 29—It was reported that Mr. Mitchell controlled a secret fund that was used to gather information about the Democrats. He denied the article.

Oct. 3—The House Banking and Currency Committee

contempt of court for refusing to answer grand jury questions.

April 17—President Nixon announced a new White House investigation after what he called "major developments." His press secretary, Ronald Ziegler, said all previous White House statements on the subject were "inoperative."

April 19—Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst removed himself from the investigation because of his "close personal and professional relationship" with some of the figures. Mr. Dean said he would not be a "scapegoat" in the case. Mr. Magruder was reported ready to testify that he helped plan the bugging with Mr. Dean and Mr. Mitchell.

April 20—Mr. Mitchell told reporters he had attended meetings where wiretapping was discussed, but did not approve plans. Mr. Dean was reported ready to testify that Mr. Haldeman and another White House aide, John D. Ehrlichman, worked on a cover-up.

April 23—The White House denied that Mr. Nixon knew of the bugging in advance.

April 25—Vice President Agnew said he had "full confidence" the President could clear up the case.

April 26—Mr. Magruder resigned as assistant to the Secretary of Commerce. Mr. Gray was reported as having burned documents belonging to Hunt at Mr. Dean's request.

April 27—Mr. Gray resigned as acting chief of the F.B.I. The judge in the Pentagon papers case released information that Liddy and Hunt had burglarized the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

May 1—Press Secretary Ziegler publicly apologizes to the Washington Post for his harsh criticism of the newspaper's persistence in its investigation of the Watergate conspiracy.

May 2—Egil "Bud" Krogh, a former White House aide who bossed the Pentagon papers investigation, takes a sudden leave from his job as No. 2 man in the Department of Transportation.

May 2—The Justice Department accuses the Nixon re-election campaign of illegally failing to report a \$200,000 cash contribution from Robert L. Vesco, a New York financier under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

May 2—The Senate, acting on a proposal by Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Illinois), calls for an independent prosecutor for the Watergate case.

May 2—U.S. Judge Matthew Byrne, presiding at the Pentagon papers trial, says Ehrlichman contacted him about a possible presidential appointment to the FBI director's job.