

# Was the CIA In On Watergate?



Jack Anderson

THE WATERGATE ringleaders apparently used phony credentials, which the Central Intelligence Agency authenticated, during their spying-sabotage operations against the Democrats.

Trusted sources have told us James McCord, while he was preparing to bug Democratic Party Headquarters, flashed CIA papers identifying himself as "George Russell." Those who checked with the CIA were assured "George Russell" was a legitimate employee.

Other sources close to the Watergate investigation say that G. Gordon Liddy may also have used the same "George Russell" alias. These sources claim the FBI originally thought the Watergate break-in was a CIA operation.

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THE CIA, however, refused to cooperate with the FBI investigation. A memo, intended for FBI eyes only, reported: "It is recalled we specifically were requested by the CIA not to interview . . . two CIA employees, and instructions were issued to WFO (Washington Field Office) to this effect. One of the individuals had already been interviewed, and the second was not interviewed per the request of the CIA."

Another FBI memo, prepared for ex-White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman but never submitted to him, noted that Hunt and Liddy had "traveled extensively around the United States contacting former CIA employees for the purpose of set-

ting up a security organization for the Republican Party dealing with 'political espionage.'"

Both E. Howard Hunt and McCord are ex-CIA agents. The four Cubans caught with McCord in the Democratic lair, according to an FBI memo, had either "worked with or participated in CIA activities against the Castro government."

One of the Cubans, Bernard Barker, was reported to have told associates that he thought all along the Watergate operation had "the support of the company." The "company" is a term used by insiders to refer to the CIA.

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WHEN THE FBI discovered Hunt was involved in the Watergate conspiracy, agent John Rule "telephonically contacted" presidential assistant Alexander P. Butterfield for an explanation. Our sources say he was the White House liaison man with the CIA. An FBI memo states that Butterfield informed Rule that "Hunt was used . . . on 'highly sensitive, confidential matters' about nine months ago." SEP 71

The first impulse of President Nixon's campaign chiefs was to blame the Watergate bugging operation on the CIA. Both Hunt and McCord balked at this suggestion and sent back angry word that they wouldn't "sit still" for this. They have testified under oath that Watergate was not a CIA operation.

But there is growing evidence of some kind of CIA involvement.

Footnote on Butterfield included in column, Wx Post 8 May 73.