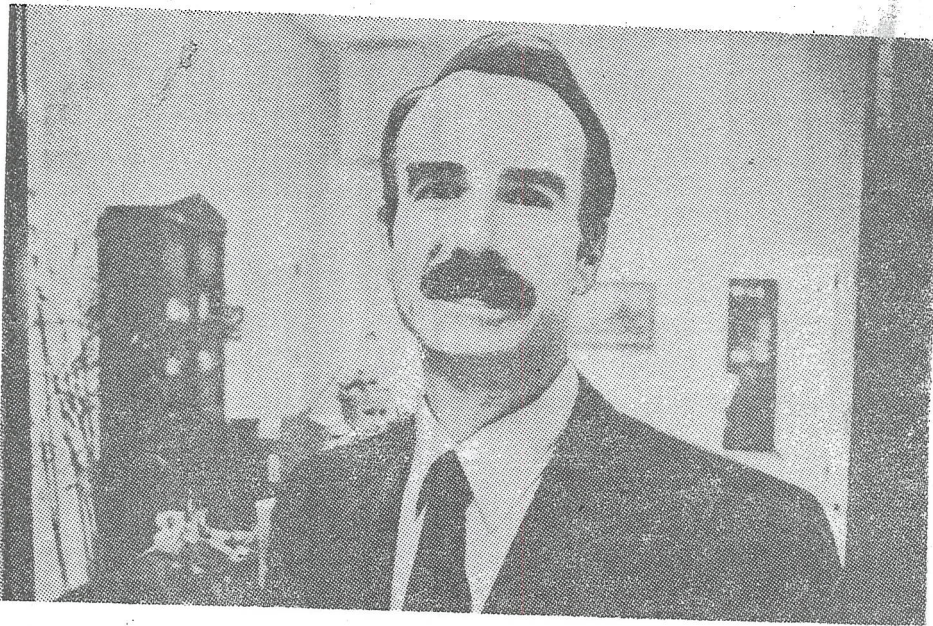


Liddy Won't Talk



G. Gordon Liddy as he arrived for the House hearing

AP Wirephoto

He Faces Contempt Citation

Washington

Even as he incurred the threat of a contempt of Congress citation, a stoic G. Gordon Liddy walked out of a House subcommittee yesterday with his smile and his silence still unshaken.

Despite rumors that the heretofore mute Watergate conspirator might be ready to crack, Liddy refused even to be sworn in before an Armed Services intelligence panel headed by Representative Lucien Nedzi (Dem-Mich.).

Nedzi said Liddy found his voice only to express agreement with his attorney's argument that, as in a court of law, he was within his rights not to take the oath or the stand.

CITATION

As a result, said Nedzi, "the subcommittee elected to excuse Mr. Liddy and to take all necessary steps to

effect a citation," a move that could mean yet another year in jail for Liddy.

The subcommittee is looking into possible involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Watergate affair and other unlawful activities. Two former White House figures, Egil Krogh and John W. Dean III, declined to answer questions earlier in the week, but they did so on Fifth Amendment grounds after being sworn in.

BURGLARY

Nedzi had sought to question Liddy specifically about his supervision, with fellow conspirator E. Howard Hunt, of the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist on Sept. 3, 1971.

In what has come to be typical fashion, Liddy strode from the House hearing room with eyes twinkling and a grin that outstretched his broad mustache. Though he didn't speak, he accommodated photographers by looking directly at their cameras.

CONTACT

The chief counsel of the Senate Watergate committee, Samuel Dash, had renewed contact with Liddy's

attorney only hours earlier in the wake of testimony Thursday that Liddy once said President Nixon personally had approved political spying plans.

Liddy, 42, the former counsel for the Nixon re-election finance committee, was the field commander for the Watergate burglary as well as a number of operations by the so-called "plumbers" group at the White House.

TERM

He is serving a term of up to 20 years for the break-in, plus a lesser sentence for contempt in connection with his refusal to talk after being given immunity before a grand jury.

As a resident of the District of Columbia jail, Liddy reportedly enjoys spinning tales of his experiences, and many of his fellow inmates have sought him out for legal advice—which he readily provides.

"He's a very personable guy," said the U.S. marshal who accompanied him to the House yesterday. "Very easy to talk to."

Associated Press