

A Vignette of G. Gordon Liddy



Jack Anderson

G. GORDON LIDDY and E Howard Hunt, the lead pipe men for the White House "Plumbers," broke into the office of a Los Angeles psychiatrist to steal information for a psychological profile of Daniel Ellsberg. President Nixon would have been better served if he had sought psychological profiles of Liddy and Hunt.

Although it is too late to benefit the President, we have tried to gather the jigsaw pieces which might enable a professional analyst to put together a psychological profile, first of all, of Liddy.

Those who know Liddy agree he is obsessed with violence. He has a collection of firearms, including a pistol that can fire a lethal pellet under water. Shortly before the Watergate break-in, he tried to purchase a small arsenal of hand guns from a Virginia dealer. On another occasion, he placed a brace of pistols on his table before receiving a delegation of angry neighbors.

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ONE AFTERNOON, his superior at the President's campaign committee, Jeb Magruder, complained about one of the men on the White House "enemies" list. "He is giving us a problem," said Magruder, mumbling something about "getting rid" of him.

Liddy was agitated when he strode from the office a few minutes later and encountered Magruder's administrative assistant, Robert Reisner. "I've been or-

dered to kill him," said Liddy grimly, naming the prominent victim.

Reisner ran to Magruder, and together they explained to Liddy that he had been given no such order. Any suggestion about murder, they explained, was merely a figure of speech. "Where I come from," retorted Liddy, "that's a rub-out."

Liddy didn't get along with Magruder who once grabbed his shoulder to restrain him. "The next time you lay a hand on me," said Liddy, "I'll kill you."

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THE WIFE of another Watergate figure was waiting for her husband at the campaign headquarters when Liddy approached her. He began chatting about the dangers facing women on Washington's streets. Liddy told her that for self-protection, she should always carry a sharpened pencil, which she could use like a stilleto.

"Be sure the erasure is in good condition," he warned. "It will protect the palm of your hand when you drive the pencil into an attacker's throat."

The woman quickly found her husband and told him of the bizarre conversation. He looked out his door, saw Liddy and explained: "Oh, that's just Gordon Liddy."

* These incidents suggest that Liddy would make a more interesting psychological study than Daniel Ellsberg. The real question is how of man of Liddy's fantasies wound up in the White House.

Footnote: We will present a psychological profile on Liddy's partner in crime, E. Howard Hunt, tomorrow.