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New Action

In Liddy

Contempt

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Washington

Contempt of Congress proceedings against convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy were approved by the House Armed Services Committee yesterday by a vote of 33 to 0.

The committee voted to seek full House approval of the contempt proceedings but chairman F. Edward Hebert (Dem-La.), said this probably will not be until Congress returns in September from a month-long recess which starts Friday.

The contempt action was voted against Liddy for his refusal even to take the swearing-in oath July 20 at a hearing of the committee's intelligence subcommittee which is probing CIA aspects of the Watergate scandal.

It was the latest incident in Liddy's steadfast refusal to tell investigators anything about Watergate.

Contempt of Congress carries a maximum one-year jail sentence and \$1000 fine.

Liddy's lawyer, Peter L. Maroulis, argued the Constitution's Fifth Amendment protects a defendant from even being sworn in to testify against himself.

Liddy has been sentenced to from six years, eight months to 20 years in prison for his complicity in the break-in and bugging of Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate June 17, 1972.

But first he is serving an eight-month sentence in the District of Columbia jail for contempt of court for refusing to testify on Watergate to the grand jury or the Senate Watergate committee.

Associated Press