

Watergate Material Seized in Burglary Of A.B.C. Bureau

"Sensitive" papers and a tape relating to certain aspects of the Watergate case were stolen in a recent burglary of the Washington news bureau of the American Broadcasting Company, the network disclosed yesterday.

The burglary was discovered Aug. 10, according to John Lynch, manager of the bureau, but the police in Washington have found no clues that would help them solve the crime.

The thieves stole two tape recorders, a radio and five audio cassette tapes, Mr. Lynch said, along with a folder containing notes on an investigation involving Watergate being conducted by Bill Gill, an A. B. C. news reporter.

One of the missing tapes contained Mr. Gill's summary of conversations he had in Miami with sources who gave information about the Senate Watergate committee's subpoena of certain bank records in Miami, Mr. Lynch said.

Mr. Gill was in Miami yesterday and could not be reached for comment. He has spent a considerable amount of time there in recent weeks, looking into the subpoena of the records of the bank, with which Charles G. Rebozo, a close friend of President Nixon, is associated.

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Mr. Lynch said that the manila folder taken by the thieves was the only one of several on Mr. Gill's desk that was stolen. He added that the thieves might have taken the radio and tape recorders to make it appear they were not seeking the folder and the audio-tape, which he said contained "sensitive information."

The case recalled another involving Dan Rather, a correspondent for the Columbia Broadcasting System, who asked the Washington police last June to reopen an investigation of a burglary of his home that occurred in April, 1972.

The burglars, who had made what Mr. Rather called "a professional break-in" of his home, fled when he arrived. They took nothing, but Mr. Rather found that they had gone through some of his papers.