

HOUSE CITED LIDDY FOR OATH REFUSAL

334-to-11 Vote Holds Him
in Contempt for Action

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10—

G. Gordon Liddy, a convicted Watergate conspirator, was cited for contempt today by the House for refusing to take an oath as a witness before a House subcommittee.

Acting after only a brief debate, the House approved the contempt proceedings by a vote of 334 to 11, with one member voting present. No Senate action is required.

The matter will now be turned over to the United States Attorney for presentation to a grand jury for decision on whether Liddy should be indicted. Conviction carries a penalty of a month to a year in jail and a fine of \$100 to \$1,000.

Liddy, a former White House employe, was called upon to testify July 20 by a House Armed Services Committee that is investigating possible Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the Watergate affair. He appeared before the subcommittee but refused to take an oath, saying that he was acting within his constitutional

A key figure in the Watergate affair, Liddy has doggedly refused to tell the courts or any of the several Congressional investigation panels anything about his own role or those of others.

Convicted in January

He was convicted in January of conspiracy, burglary and bugging of the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate complex and sentenced to a term ranging from 80 months to 20 years in prison.

He is also serving a contempt of court sentence in the District of Columbia jail for refusing to answer grand jury questions about the break-in.

And, just last week, he was indicted, along with three other former White House aides, by a Los Angeles County grand jury on charges of burglarizing the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding of Beverly Hills. Dr. Lewis was Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

The Fielding office was broken into Sept. 3, 1971, but the break-in was not publicly disclosed until the trial this spring of Dr. Ellsberg on charges of conspiracy, theft and espionage involving disclosure of secret Pentagon papers about the war in Vietnam.

Indicted along with Liddy for the Fielding office break-in were John D. Ehrlichman, former domestic affairs adviser to President Nixon; Egil Krogh Jr., a former aide to Mr. Ehrlichman; and David R. Young Jr., a former aide to Henry A. Kissinger. They have pleaded not guilty.

Liddy has not yet been taken to Los Angeles for arraignment and has thus not entered a plea.

Rarely Used Device

Congress rarely initiates contempt proceedings. The last such action was Sept. 23, 1970, when the House approved a contempt citation against Arnold S. Johnson, a spokesman for the Communist party of the United States. He had refused to be sworn in as a witness before the House Committee on Internal Security.

Later, the contempt proceedings against Mr. Johnson were dropped by the Government because some of the material gathered on him by Federal investigators included illegal wiretap conversations.

The most celebrated case of contempt of Congress was that of Gerhart Eisler, a high-ranking Communist in this country in the early nineteen-forties. He was convicted in the forties of contempt of Congress for refusing to take an oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and he was sentenced to a year in jail.

However, while appeals on this and another conviction were pending before the United States Supreme Court, Mr. Eisler jumped bail by stowing away aboard the polish liner Batory when she sailed from New York City. He later became East German chief of information and he died in 1968 during a visit to the Soviet Union.