

Liddy Asks New Trial

Washington

Convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for a new trial yesterday on grounds a federal judge had violated his constitutional rights.

In a brief filed with the court, attorneys for Liddy contended that U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica "cast himself in the light of a witness, thus lending the digni-

ty and authority of his office to the words he read to the jury.

"It is not the judge's function to introduce new and inadmissible matter to the jury."

A federal jury convicted Liddy of burglary, conspiracy and wiretapping after a trial in January at which Sirica presided. On March 23 Sirica sentenced Liddy to a maximum of 20 years in

prison and fined him \$40,000.

The brief said that when Sirica read to the jury testimony and the text of bench conferences which had taken place in the absence of the jury he violated Liddy's constitutional rights to cross-examine accuser and against self-incrimination.

All seven men convicted in the Watergate break-in now have appeals pending.

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