

# Hunt, Watergate Team Are Sentenced by Sirica

Washington

E. Howard Hunt Jr., the former spy who was hired by the White House to carry out clandestine operations, was sentenced yesterday to two-and-a-half to eight years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for his role in planning the Watergate break-in.

The five men who carried out the plan — only to be caught in the act, and arrested on the spot — were also sentenced by U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, but to lesser terms.

James W. McCord Jr., the former "security coordina-

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E. Howard Hunt, James McCord, Frank Sturgis



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Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio Martinez, Virgilio Gonzales

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tor" for the Republican National Committee and the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, was sentenced to a one-to-five year term.

Frank A. Sturgis, Eugenio R. Martinez and Virgilio R. Gonzales received terms of one to four years.

Bernard L. Barker, a Florida businessman who hired the three others, got 18 months to six years. Sturgis, Martinez and Gonzalez, having already spent nearly a year in jail pending the outcome of the case, will be eligible for parole before Christmas.

## SHOCKED

The six men were, with G. Gordon Liddy, the original Watergate defendants, the first to be accused in the crime that shocked the country and jolted the government.

Sirica had already sentenced five of the defendants to much longer terms, but had indicated they would be reduced later, depending on how much the five cooperated with the government.

McCord had not been sentenced, pending his testimony as a government witness before the Senate Watergate committee. Both McCord and Liddy are appealing the case on the grounds they were convicted on perjured and incomplete testimony.

They could each have been imprisoned for decades.

Liddy, in fact, has already been sentenced to a maximum of 20 years, in part because of his refusal to cooperate with the prosecution.

Hunt could have got 50 years, by Sirica's count, and the others, between 60 and 65.

But they were also under-

lings in the Watergate break-in itself and even more so in the coverup that followed. And so, with a minimum of emotion and fuss, Sirica sentenced them accordingly.

"I've given you the lowest minimum I thought is justified under the circumstances of this case," he said simply, after announcing the sentences on Martinez, Sturgis and Gonzales.

Sirica — who has been dubbed "Maximum John" by some local lawyers, due to what they consider his tough sentencing policy — did not even give that much of an explanation in imposing his penalties on the other defendants.

## EMOTIONS

But if the judge was low-keyed and unemotional, many of the others in his crowded courtroom were not.

The proceeding started off with a lengthy plea for mercy by Daniel E. Schultz, lawyer for the four Floridians. He spoke of each of his clients in turn, describing Sturgis, for instance, as "that type of man representing the person who has historically made this country good."

Schultz repeated his contention that the four had believed they were involved in a legitimate national security operation rather than in a crime, saying that his clients were "men convicted of a crime who are not criminals," and then, noting that the four had already been in jail for nearly a year, he made the plea that set the tone for the rest of the proceedings.

"How much more punishment do you mete out to the soldiers when the architects of the plan, the generals, haven't spent a day in jail and may never do so?" he asked.

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