

Liddy Appeal Is Opposed by Jaworski

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The Watergate Special Prosecution Force asked the U.S. Court of Appeals yesterday to reject convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy's request to have his conviction overturned on a technicality based on the reading of testimony given by an aide to the Nixon re-election campaign finance committee.

Liddy, who was convicted

last January of charges of burglary, conspiracy and illegal wiretapping in connection with the Watergate break-in, had contended that U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. Sirica violated his constitutional rights when he read to the jury testimony given in secret by Hugh W. Sloan Jr., treasurer of Mr. Nixon's 1972 campaign finance committee.

In his appeal, Liddy also

has claimed that his case had been compromised because only one of the 12 jurors impaneled for the trial had been individually interrogated by the court.

Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski argued in a brief filed yesterday in the appellate court that Liddy had been given 30 peremptory challenges, but chose to exercise only 11 during the jury selection process.

Liddy, who is serving a prison term of 6 to 20 years, claimed in his appeal that his rights were violated when Sirica instructed the jury that it should consider the fact that Liddy retained a lawyer at 3 o'clock in the morning after the Watergate burglary.

The special prosecutor challenged that claim, contending that there was nothing prejudicial about the testimony. In the brief, Jaworski argued that Liddy had every right to hire a lawyer, but he maintained that the defendant "did not merely hire a lawyer to represent himself."

Jaworski's brief said that Liddy hired counsel both for himself and the five men arrested June 17, 1972, inside the Watergate complex.