

NY Times DEC 7 1973
Sirica Backed on Liddy Plea
By Watergate Prosecutors

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 (UPI) —The Watergate special prosecution force, in a brief, defended Judge John J. Sirica's questioning of witnesses and other courtroom procedures today in opposing an appeal by G. Gordon Liddy of his conviction in the Watergate break-in.

Liddy is appealing his conviction in United States District Court of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping charges in connection with the June 17, 1972, break-in at Democratic National headquarters.

Liddy was sentenced to six to 20 years in prison and fined \$40,000. He was later sentenced to up to 18 months in the District of Columbia jail for refusing to testify before a grand jury despite a grant of immunity from Judge Sirica.

In a 77-page brief filed in United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, arguments were presented by Liddy's lawyers.

They involved Judge Sirica's questioning of witnesses, the reading of testimony taken while the jury was not present in open court, and whether the examination of jurors took the pretrial publicity on the case into account.