

Parole for 3 Watergate Burglars

Washington

Three of the Watergate burglars were ordered paroled yesterday, effective March 7.

They will be the first of the seven men convicted in the conspiracy, burglary and wiretap case to finish serving their prison terms.

Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank A. Sturgis, and Virgilio R. Gonzalez will have served 15 months of their one to four-year terms when they leave the prison camp at Elgin Air Force Base in Florida.

The three, all from Miami, ranked lowest among the seven men who planned and executed the May 27 and June 17, 1972, break-ins at the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate office building.

They received their orders from a former CIA associate, Bernard L. Barker, who in turn was recruited by former CIA operative E. Howard Hunt. Barker and Hunt were freed last week pending a decision on their appeals from sentences of 1½ to two years and 2½ to eight years, respectively.

The United States Parole Board said Martinez, Sturgis and Gonzalez must obey customary conditions, including reporting monthly to a probation officer.

Hunt was the first to plead guilty as the seven men went to trial January, 1973.

Later, Barker, Martinez, Sturgis and Gonzalez followed suit, leaving only G. Gordon Liddy and James W. McCord Jr. to stand trial. Liddy and McCord were convicted by a jury after 16 days.

Liddy, sentenced to a minimum six years eight months, is in the District of Columbia jail serving a term for contempt of court. He also has an appeal pending.

McCord is free on bond while his appeal is being considered.

The parole for Sturgis and

Gonzalez will end Jan. 2, 1976, while parole for Martinez will end Jan. 29, 1976.

The difference is accounted for by the time each man spent in jail in the period spanning date of arrest, sentencing and time served by March 7.

Martinez, Sturgis and Gonzalez, along with Barker and McCord, were arrested inside the political headquarters on their second break-in. Hunt and Liddy surrendered later.

In affidavits filed with the court, Martinez, Sturgis and Gonzalez said they believed the Watergate operation

"was one that had been secretly sponsored by a government intelligence agency of this country." They said they pleaded guilty because they felt they were not permitted to disclose that fact.

Later, the three—along with Hunt and Barker—attempted to withdraw those pleas. The four Miami men asked for new trials and Hunt asked for dismissal of the charges.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica turned down their requests. His refusal is the basis of Hunt and Barker's appeal.

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