

Watergate Figures Plan Housing Project

MIAMI, Aug. 15 (UPI)—Miami John Priestes, fresh from a six-month prison term for bribery, and three convicted Watergate burglars plan to build a housing development in Central Florida to be called "Watergate Hills."

Priestes was convicted of offering bribes to an aide of U.S. Sen. Edward Gurney (R-Fla.), and served six months in prison. His associates are Bernard Barker, Eugenio Martinez and Virgilio Gonzales, all

members of the Watergate burglary team.

Priestes said he will direct construction and the others will handle sales.

Asked why the name was chosen for the \$7 million project near Lake Wales, Priestes told a news conference Wednesday, "There is a lot of water and a lot of hills there."

Priestes, Martinez and Gonzales became friends while in federal prison at Eglin Air Force Base. Barker was released from the facility on the

same day Priestes arrived last January, but he and Priestes had had business dealings previously.

"I have to make a living," said Barker. "I have a lot of attorney bills and I can't think of any better way to do it than through the sweat of your brow. This is perfect rehabilitation."

Priestes also has testified before the Watergate grand jury in Washington about a \$25,000 contribution he made to the Committee for the Re-

election of the President in 1972.

He said he expected the participation of Barker, Martinez and Gonzales to be an asset.

"I think it'll definitely help sales," he said. "Bernie is regarded as something of an international hero, and I'm trying to climb out of a hole as a local villain."

Barker, discussing his sales approach to customers, added, "We promise not to bug them."