

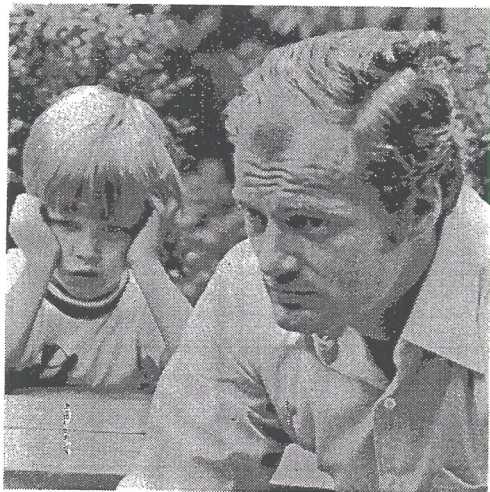
How It Looks From Inside

One select group of men had special cause for indignation over President Ford's surprise pardon of Richard Nixon: the thirteen Watergate convicts who have already served some or all of their time behind bars. While many of them seem to have gotten over the initial trauma of imprisonment, they are now facing difficult practical problems that Richard Nixon can only imagine.

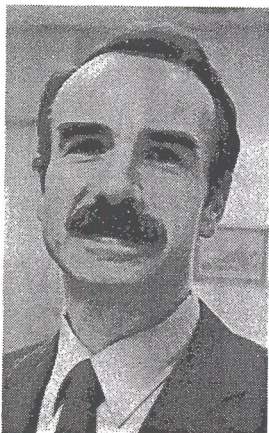
By and large, they are neither bitter nor vindictive toward the former President. Former White House counsel Charles W. Colson, 42, who is now serving a one-to-three-year sentence for his role in the Ellsberg case, professes to have found peace of mind in Christ. Now that his four-and-one-half-months at the minimum-security Federal prison at Allenwood, Pa., is over, onetime White House aide Egil Krogh Jr., 35, says his burden has been lifted and there is a new "freedom" in his life. Even G. Gordon Liddy, 43, the tight-lipped secret agent who is now serving at least six years and eight months for setting up both the Ellsberg and Watergate break-ins, has apparently made his adjustment to prison life, enjoying his role as a jailhouse lawyer for other prisoners in the D.C. jail. "He's Mr. Justice Liddy now," says one friend.

Nearly all of the Watergate convicts and their families have had to face harsh financial realities. Not only have they lost what in most cases were sizable incomes, but they have accumulated staggering legal bills. For the Cuban spear carriers in the Watergate break-in (all out of jail on appeal or parole), the problems are particularly acute. Virgilio Gonzalez, 48, had his locksmith shop to go back to but Frank Sturgis, 49, has had to take a laborer's job. Bernard Barker, 56, and Eugenio Martinez, 51, are selling real estate again, but they could still lose their licenses, and legal fund-raising drives for them have fizzled. Liddy's family is in a tight spot, too. They are living on his wife's salary as a D.C. schoolteacher, reports a friend: "There are five kids . . . and things are very bad."

Obstacle: For some the problem is not just one of getting by, but of building a new professional life as well. Former campaign aide Herbert L. (Bart) Porter, 36, is pursuing a business career in California, but many of the Watergate convicts are lawyers who face almost automatic disbarment. That is not an insurmountable obstacle for all of them (former Nixon lawyer Herbert W. Kalmbach, 52, for example, earned most of his money in real estate, not litigation), but men like former White House counsel John W. Dean, 35, Colson and Krogh will have to shift professional gears. Just last weekend, Krogh embarked on an



Krogh and Hunt: Talking and writing to pay the bills



Liddy, Segretti, Martinez: "Things are very bad"

ambitious lecture tour with an appearance on a panel on ethics and government at the National Conference on Citizenship in Washington.

One of the saddest cases is that of former dirty trickster Donald Segretti. The baby-faced, 32-year-old lawyer has been out of the Federal prison at Lompoc, Calif., for six months, but he's still looking for a job. He lives with his retired father in a middle-class suburb of Los Angeles; lately, he's begun thinking about taking night-school business courses on the GI Bill. "I grant the Nixon family has suffered a lot," he told NEWSWEEK's Martin Kasindorf last week. "But they seem to be getting all the public compassion . . . We don't have pensions to fall back on. We never made that status in life."

For many of the Watergate convicts, the last, best financial hope seems to be a lucrative book contract. That dream has already come true for Jeb Stuart Magruder, 39, the onetime deputy director of the Nixon campaign committee who is now serving a ten-month to four-year sentence at Allenwood. Magruder got a reported \$100,000 advance from Atheneum in New York for his memoirs entitled "An American Life: One Man's Road to Watergate." And now the book ranks on some best-seller

lists. Convicted White House "plumber" E. Howard Hunt, 55, is trying to turn the same trick. Currently free on appeal of his two-and-one-half to eight-year sentence, Hunt is publishing a self-serving autobiography entitled, "Undercover: Memoirs of an American Secret Agent." And even Liddy is grudgingly going public. He has reportedly agreed to a non-Watergate television interview and is even trying his hand at writing with a similar non-Watergate essay in next month's Harper's. The title: "Gordon Liddy: A Patriot Speaks."

'Exposé': For John Dean, Richard Nixon's principal accuser, the immediate publishing prospects look bleak. A deal with Bantam Books and Farrar, Straus & Giroux fell through when Dean reportedly backed off, fearing that anything he wrote could be subpoenaed at forthcoming Watergate trials. But after his one to four-year jail term is over, the outlook is dazzling, with several major houses expected to be after his definitive Watergate "exposé." Meanwhile, Dean's wife, Maureen, is unlikely to suffer financially. Only last week, the Washington Post's Book World reported that she had signed a six-figure book contract of her own with Bantam to publish her Watergate tale—a book described as "primarily a love story."