

A still proud Liddy talks Examiner News Services

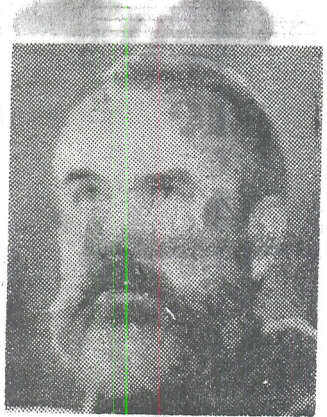
"... if one is engaged in a war, one deploys troops, one seeks to know the capability and intentions of the enemy and things of that sort. If one is engaged in politics one deploys his political troops, one seeks to learn the capabilities and intentions of the other side. The opposition," Liddy said. "It's like brushing your teeth... it's basic," he said.

"Power exists to be used," Liddy said. "... if Watergate is as it's alleged to be, it was an intelligence gathering operation of one group of persons who were seeking power, or to retain power, against another group of persons who were seeking to acquire power. That's all it was."

Other Watergate conspirators testified Liddy carried out his campaign intelligence duties with fanatical devotion, drawing up grand schemes for sabotaging the Democrats and organizing the Watergate break-in.

Liddy was convicted of conspiracy in the 1971 burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office and has served an 18-month contempt-of-court sentence for refusing to talk about Watergate.

On one of the presidential tapes, Nixon called Liddy "a little bit nuts," Liddy said



Liddy ponders a question

— UPI and AP Photos

WASHINGTON—Watergate mastermind G. Gordon Liddy views the events of the Watergate scandals as basic politics—"like brushing your teeth"—and says Richard Nixon should have covered them up more ruthlessly.

Liddy, the former Nixon campaign finance counsel who drew up the intelligence gathering plans that led directly to the Watergate bugging, relaxed his vow of silence in an interview with Mike Wallace scheduled for broadcast tonight on CBS's "60 Minutes" (Channel 5, 6 p.m.)

Liddy is free on bond pending an appeal of the 6-to-20-year prison term he received for conspiracy, burglary and illegal wiretapping in the 1972 breakin at Democratic national headquarters.

Liddy's wife, who participated in the interview at their Oxon Hill, Md., home, described her husband as a hero for refusing to disclose for 2½ years what he knows about Watergate. She said he was "serving his country just as many of the military men have."

"And I think of him and the kind of

—Turn to Page 13, Col. 1

—From Page 1

life we're living very similar to the POWs and the MIA wives who have had it so much harder than I've had it," she said.

Proud of his Watergate service to Nixon, Liddy still refuses to discuss "substantive" Watergate matters. But he gave his views on political morality and scathing assessments of the "stool pigeons" who served Nixon and later provided the government with evidence.

And he describes Watergate as a justified intelligence gathering operation.

he took no offense at the remark and remains loyal to Nixon.

"He's evidently a very sick man," Liddy said. "And I regret that. I think he has demonstrated toward the end of his presidency that he was insufficiently ruthless, in that these domestic difficulties in which he was engaged, he did not act ruthlessly."

Asked what he thought of John Dean, the former presidential counsel who was the star witness for the Watergate prosecution, Liddy said: "You'd have to put him right up there with Judas Iscariot."

He said Dean's motivation was simply "to save his ass."

Liddy said he would refuse to testify even if his prison term were reduced to one year in exchange for his testimony.



G. Gordon Liddy, suddenly willing to be interviewed, takes his children for a ride