

Liddy Complaint of Unfair Trial Rejected

Washington

The Supreme Court yesterday rejected Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy's claim that U.S. District Judge John Sirica failed to give him a fair trial.

In a one-sentence order without comment the court refused to hear Liddy's appeal that Sirica made significant errors in the original Watergate trial in 1973.

The order left standing the U.S. Court of Appeals' ruling in November that Sirica's "palpable search for truth"

in the original trial "was in the highest tradition of his office as a federal judge."

Liddy returned to prison last week to serve the remainder of his sentence of six years and eight months to 20 years for the 1972 bugging of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate complex.

Most of the 23 months he already has served — by far the longest of any Watergate convict — was for contempt of court for refusal to testify before the grand jury.

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