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Liddy Seeks His Release From Prison

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Watergate conspirator

George Gordon Liddy, has asked U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica for an immediate release from prison *19 MAY*

In papers filed in U.S. court Monday, Peter L. Maroulis, Liddy's attorney, said the sentence that Sirica imposed on Liddy of 6½ years to 20 years and a fine of \$40,000 "is vastly greater than that imposed upon any other defendant involved in the Watergate tragedy."

Maroulis said Liddy already had served two years in prison, longer than any other Watergate defendant, and that much of this time had been under "abysmal conditions." These conditions, he said, included 13 months in the D.C. jail and various periods of solitary confinement at the federal correctional institute at Danbury, Conn., and in the federal correctional institution at Terminal Island, Calif.

Moreover, said Maroulis, President Ford's pardon of Richard M. Nixon and the failure of the Justice Department to recommend imprisonment for former Vice President Spiro Agnew, who pleaded no contest to an income tax evasion charge, raise "serious questions of even-handed justice" for persons convicted in the Watergate cases.

The attorney also said that Liddy's father died in February, leaving his 67-year-old mother largely dependent on her son. The senior Mrs. Liddy said in an affidavit filed with the court that Liddy's wife and five children also needed him for support.

Of the seven persons convicted of the Watergate break-in, Liddy, E. Howard Hunt and James W. McCord remain in prison. The other four are on parole or out of prison pending appeals.

After Liddy, Hunt received the stiffest sentence: 2½ to 8 years.

Earlier this month, Judge Sirica reduced McCord's sentence of 1 to 5 years to four months, making him eligible for parole May 28.

Following his conviction on Jan. 30, 1973, McCord wrote a letter to Sirica detailing the involvement in the Watergate cover-up of numerous Nixon administration officials and officials of the President's re-election committee.

Liddy has remained steadfastly silent about his role in the Watergate. There was no indication of when Sirica might act on his request for release.