

Four in Watergate Break-In Settle For \$200,000 From Nixon Fund

NYTimes

By ANTHONY MARRO

FEB 23 1977

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22—Four of the men arrested during the Watergate break-in have agreed to an out-of-court settlement that will give them \$200,000 from former President Richard M. Nixon's 1972 campaign fund, a lawyer for the four men said today.

The four, all members of Miami's anti-Castro Cuban exile community, had originally sued the Committee for the Re-election of the President and a number of its officers for \$2 million, charging that they had been misled into believing they were acting with Government sanction.

"We feel this proves that we were right in saying the men were tricked into taking part in the break-in," said Daniel E. Schultz, an attorney for all four. "You don't agree to pay \$200,000 unless you're concerned about the outcome."

The lawsuit was filed by Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio Martinez, Virgilio Gonzales and Frank Sturgis, all of whom were arrested in the Watergate offices of the Democratic National Committee early on June 17, 1972.

The essence of their suit was that persons in the pay of Mr. Nixon's re-election committee had led them to believe, they were working for the Central Intelligence Agency or some other Government

agency, and that the break-in was a legitimate national security act that had Government approval.

Richard W. Galher, an attorney for the trustees of the 1972 campaign fund, could not be reached for comment, but a lawyer for one of the former election committee officials confirmed that the out-of-court settlement had been reached.

According to its most recent report to

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The Federal Election Commission, there was still \$1.2 million remaining in the fund, which is now known as the 1972 Campaign Liquidation Trust and which is being managed by three trustees.

The defendants in the civil suit included former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans, Jeb Stuart Magruder and G. Gordon Liddy, all of them former committee officials, as well as E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former C.I.A. aide.

Mr. Schultz said today that the entire \$200,000 would come from the remaining campaign funds and that the individual defendants would not be personally liable for any of the settlement. The four will receive equal shares of the settlement, but a large portion of it is expected to be used for legal fees.

Central to the suit was the relationship some of the plaintiffs had had with Mr. Hunt, with whom they had been linked in Watergate and the Bay of Pigs.

Mr. Hunt, who had operated under the code name "Eduardo" at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion, had had extensive dealings with some of the Cuban exiles at that time. The core of their argument was that they had been led to believe they were being recruited for another C.I.A.-type of operation.

Mr. Hunt, who in recent months has been working in the prison laundry at a Federal prison camp in Florida, is scheduled to be released tomorrow after serving 31 months of a 30-month-to-8-year term for his role in the Watergate break-in.

The four men themselves each served 14 months in prison, and Mr. Schultz said that he hoped the settlement could pave the way toward a pardon.

"They don't want to go down in history as felons and political operatives," he said. "They were persuaded they were working for their Government."