

G. Gordon Liddy helped his wife Frances pack their car outside Federal Correctional Institution

Imprisonment Ends

Liddy Out — Secrets Aren't

Danbury, Conn.

G. Gordon Liddy walked out of prison yesterday the same way he entered in 1973 — silent about Watergate and almost everything else.

Liddy, who had spent 52½ months in prison, more than any other of the figures in the Watergate scandal that toppled a president, wheeled a hand truck carrying three cartons of his belongings out the front door of the medium-security federal correctional institution here at 9:35 a.m.

Then, while his wife Frances hurried ahead to unlock the family Pinto, the 46-year-old Liddy stood erect on the front steps of the low-white building, staring over a crowd of newsmen, ignoring their shouted questions about Watergate; about whether he would ever tell or sell his story of Watergate and about his future plans.

He yielded only twice. When he was asked where he was heading, Liddy glared and said: "East of the sun and west of the moon." And finally, when a reporter shouted, "Well, Mr. Liddy, here's an easy one for you: How do you feel?" he snapped back something in German that was not completely audible.

As the questions persisted and the photographers, television crewmen and reporters surged around them, Liddy and his wife struggled to cram his belongings into the subcompact car. After coping with a balky trunk lock, they drove off, presumably toward Washington and their home and five children in Oxon Hill, Mo. A few camera crews pursued.

Liddy wore the same too-tight houndstooth sport jacket, tan shirt, dark brown tie and dark brown slacks that he wore Tuesday when he appeared before a federal magistrate in Williamsport, Pa., to take a pauper's oath establishing that he was too poor to pay his fine of \$40,000, a legal necessity before he could be released.

He also seemed the same mysterious figure with a trim, military mien that he was when he was first arrested and tried after the burglary at the offices of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate office building complex in Washington on June 17, 1972.

Liddy is the only one of the Watergate figures who has not told his side of the story, and this refusal, according to his friends, has caused him to receive the longest prison sentence and to be the last of the original seven Watergate defendants to be freed.

Liddy's original sentence for plotting the Watergate break-in to spy on the Democrats in the 1972 presidential campaign, was from six years and eight months to 20 years plus the \$40,000 fine. Later, 18 months was added to that sentence for contempt of court for refusing to answer a grand jury's questions about Watergate.

Last April, President Carter commuted Liddy's sentence to eight years and his parole became effective yesterday. Except for three months of freedom on bail in 1975, be has been in prison since Jan. 30, 1973.

New York Times