

# All the President's Men Revisited

## The Major Cast

### The Burglary Team

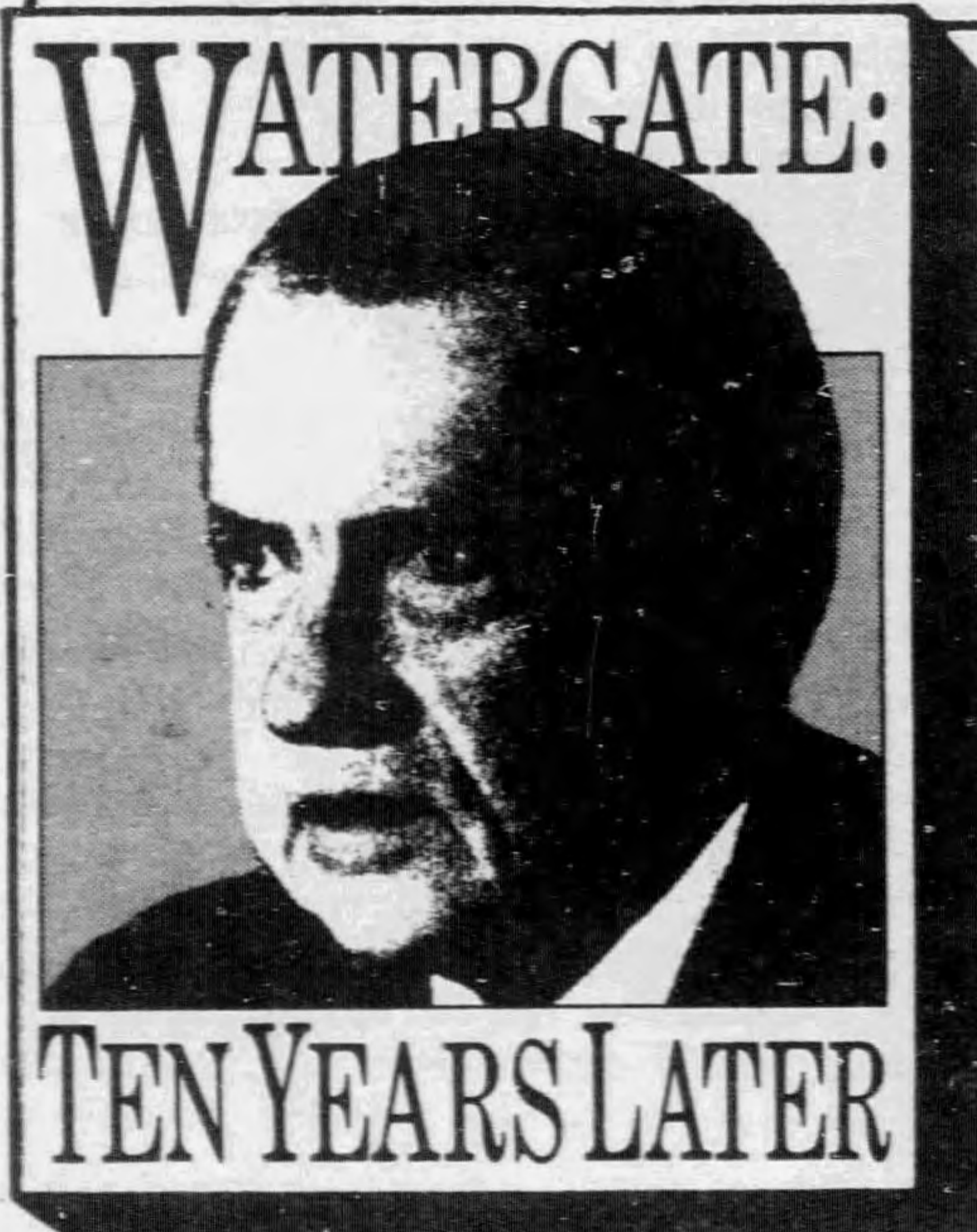


Liddy Hunt Barker Martinez Sturgis Gonzales

### The White House



Ehrlichman Haldeman Dean Colson Chapin Ziegler



### The Re-election Committee



Mitchell



Stans Magruder McCord

By Fred Bruning

How odd, how antic, how utterly dopey. Reading about the Watergate caper on a Sunday morning 10 years ago today, Richard Nixon sipped coffee and gave the matter precious little of his presidential thought. "It sounded preposterous, Cubans in surgical gloves bugging the Democratic National Committee," Nixon said later when so much in his life had changed. "I dismissed it as some sort of prank."

Nixon, of course, would try many times publicly to dismiss the June 17, 1972, incident, never with success. What struck the chief executive as caprice that day in Key Biscayne quickly lost its charm, its harmlessness, its insignificance. There was trouble ahead, but, casually leafing through the Miami Herald, Nixon likely had no idea — not even a glimmer — of how much misery and woe lay before him. What could a flubbed break-in — "a third-rate burglary attempt," as Nixon ultimately came to characterize the episode — have to do with the most powerful man on Earth?

As a piece of criminal engineering, Watergate was an incomplete circuit. Padding around Democratic headquarters at 2 AM, four intruders were surprised by three plainclothes cops. The suspects carried walkie-talkies. They wore blue rubber gloves — blue! All were natty in business suits. There was a brown overnight bag, too. Inside, police found cameras.

Next door, in Room 214, two more members of the Watergate invasion force waited for word of success — for confirmation that the advance guard had done its stuff, that, in fact, the war room of the Democrats had been wired for sound. Instead, the two — E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy — received only one hushed message on their walkie-talkie. "They got us," came the words. "They got us."

Hunt, the writer of pulp thrillers, responded as might a character in one of his books. Slipping undetected out of

Frost's Nixon Interview, Page 87

Room 214, he hurried across the street to the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, where a lookout had been posted. Hunt alerted the fellow as to the raid — perhaps, even said a word or two about the man's aptitude as a scout — and helped him pack up the delicate electronic gear that was to have played such an important part in the night's adventure. From the motel, Hunt went — where? — to the White House. Into a safe, he stuffed the electronic equipment. Out of the safe, he took \$10,000. Then he phoned a lawyer.

Liddy, leader of what he called the "entry team," strategist, field captain — the Cool Hand Luke of the crowd — also drifted out of the Watergate but made no stopovers. Holding a respectable job as counsel with the finance office of the Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP), he had to be especially discreet. He went, therefore, straight to his car, a Jeep, and drove home. Liddy's wife, Fran, woke up when her husband arrived. Anything wrong, she asked? Liddy did not hesitate to share his gloom. "There was trouble," he said. "Some people got caught. I'll probably go to jail."

He did, too. So did his partners. So did the clever men in the Nixon administration who either knew or didn't know in advance about the plot to bug the Democratic National Committee, who covered up what they learned, or lied under oath, or comported themselves with too little respect for the law and too great a regard for the rightness of a Nixon presidency. In the end, 25 men — most of them comfortable, upper-middle-class Republican men — paid for their zeal and poor judgment with precious moments taken from the time of their lives.

Within a day of the Watergate arrests, those responsible for preserving Richard Nixon were deeply worried. John Dean, the President's lawyer, was briefed —Continued on Page 15

Newsday / Michael Killelea and Richard Cornett

# Mob Activity in Businesses Probed

By Tom Renner and Joseph Demma

A special undercover unit of the Internal Revenue Service has been investigating businesses on Long Island and in New York City for evidence of organized-crime infiltration and illegal tax skimming, sources close to the investigation said yesterday.

The unit, working with the Eastern District Organized Crime Strike Force in Brooklyn, has been conducting the probe for more than a year and concentrating on discotheques and bars and other businesses with large cash flows, the sources said.

The probe was disclosed after the unsealing of a federal-court affidavit alleging that Les Jardins, a lavishly appointed West Babylon disco, had failed to pay any taxes on its \$500,000-a-year operation since it opened in fall, 1980. The affidavit, filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, contained information on the existence of an undercover IRS operation and the allegations against Les Jardins. No charges have been filed against Les Jardins or its owners, and the investigation is continuing.

While the affidavit pertains only to Les Jardins and contains no mention of organized crime, federal sources said that the seizure of the disco's books and records last month was part of an overall probe into hidden ownership by orga-

nized-crime figures and tax skimming involving area businesses.

Law-enforcement sources said that Suffolk police had observed Colombo crime-family capo John (Sonny) Franzese of Roslyn at the disco on several occasions in October and December of 1980. Franzese, who is on federal parole

for bank robbery, reportedly attended the opening in the fall of 1980 with his wife, Tina, and was seen with his sons, Michael and John Jr. Michael Franzese was also observed several times at the disco without his father. There was no mention of Franzese, however, in the federal-court affidavit.

Les Jardins' owners, according to the federal-court records, are Vincent Gangi, 44, and Thomas Bova, 65, both of New Hyde Park. Gangi yesterday refused to comment on the IRS probe or reports of the Franzeses appearing at his disco. Les Jardins, at 521 Montauk Hwy., has been one of Long Island's largest and most popular discotheques since it opened.

The affidavit, signed by IRS special agent Ralph Parente, was filed last month along with an IRS application for a search warrant for the disco's books and records. According to the statement, IRS agents posing as potential buyers met with Gangi and Bova in March and were told that the disco had grossed a minimum of \$10,000 a week for 75 weeks and had a net income of almost \$300,000 in 1981. The affidavit said that the IRS could find no record of the company filing any income-tax returns and no record of either Gangi or Bova claiming any income from the disco on their individual tax returns.

Gangi and Bova were reluctant to produce records of their business, the affidavit said, until they were satisfied that the prospective "buyers" were not undercover IRS agents. When they satisfied themselves that the agents were real buyers, they agreed to show them the records at the disco May 25. Agents then seized all the records of the corporation.



Les Jardins disco in W. Babylon, a target of the IRS-Justice Department probe

Newsday / Naomi Lasdon

NEWSDAY, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1982

\*

6