

Ex-White House Aide Testifies On Democratic Office Break-In

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 29—E. Howard Hunt, a former White House consultant whose name has been mentioned in the investigation of the June 17 break-in at the Democratic national headquarters here, appeared in public today for the first time since the incident when he showed up to make a deposition.

Mr. Hunt dropped from sight in mid-June, shortly after it was reported that his name and telephone number had been found in an address book belonging to Bernard L. Barker, one of the five men arrested at gunpoint in the 2:30 A.M. break-in at the Democrats' offices.

This morning, Mr. Hunt, a former Central Intelligence Agency operative, eluded waiting reporters by slipping undetected into the downtown Washington offices of Edward Bennett Williams, a lawyer whose firm is representing the Democrats in a \$1-million civil suit against the five.

The deposition is one of at least 13 requested by the Democrats as part of the suit's pretrial discovery phase.

The session was reported to have begun on schedule at 10 A.M., prompting speculation by Mr. Williams that Mr. Hunt must have entered the building early and "hidden in the men's room" until that hour.

Lawyers present would give no indication of what Mr. Hunt said under oath or even of how long he talked. They cited a Federal District Court order sealing all pretrial testimony in the case.

William O. Bittman, Mr. Hunt's attorney, left the building at noon in the company of three unidentified men, making his way without speaking through a crowd of reporters, photographers and cameramen in the lobby.

Presses Down Button

By 12:30, Mr. Hunt had not appeared, but newsmen found him on the building's partly unused fifth floor, three floors below the office in which he had been questioned.

Upon being recognized, Mr. Hunt, who is 53 years old, quickly donned dark glasses, pulled a Panama hat down over his forehead and pressed the elevator's down button.

During the 30-second trip to the lobby, he refused to discuss any aspect of the break-in, saying only that reports that he fled to Spain following disclosure of his name in Mr. Barker's address book were "ridiculous."

When the elevator doors opened, Mr. Hunt put up his hands to hide his face from the newsmen in the lobby and walked quickly out the door.

Mr. Hunt worked 63 days for the White House in 1971 and 24 and a half days in 1972,



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E. Howard Hunt leaving the Washington law offices of Edward Bennett Williams after giving a deposition.

earning a consultant fee of about \$100 a day. Until about two years ago, he was employed by the Central Intelligence Agency. He played an important role in planning the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

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