

GOP Unit, Bugging Linked by O'Brien

WHITE HOUSE TIE? DEMOCRATS' CHARGES

A part-time White House consultant whose name appeared in two address books seized from the suspects in the break-in of Democratic national headquarters here, reportedly met in Miami two weeks ago with a member of the group that broke into the party offices here, equipped with bugging devices and cameras.

The New York Times today reported that Howard E. Hunt, who, using the code name "Eduardo," was one of the Central Intelligence Agency men directing the ill-fated Bay of Pigs Operation in 1961, met with Bernard L. Barker. Barker is one of five men arrested in the Saturday break-in at the Watergate Apartment complex.

Barker, the Times said, was Hunt's chief aide during the Bay of Pigs operation, using the code name "Macho."

Hunt became a part-time consultant to Charles W. Colson, special counsel to President Nixon and other high White House officials, after retiring from the CIA two years ago.

Hunt's name and address turned up in address books taken from two of the five men arrested during the break-in Saturday, federal sources have acknowledged.

Quoting Cuban sources in Miami, the Times said Hunt flew to Miami about two weeks ago to meet with Barker, now a wealthy real estate man, and handed Barker his business card with his suburban Maryland home telephone number penciled on the back, and gave him oral instructions to call if Barker ever needed him.

Hunt was reached at his home by the Times and asked if he knew Barker. "I have no comment on that," Hunt said.

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By DANA BULLEN
Star Staff Writer

Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien charged today there is "a developing clear line to the White House" in the weekend break-in and attempted bugging of his party's national headquarters here.

He made the statement as he announced the filing of a suit against the Committee to Re-elect the President, asking \$1 million in damages for the break-in last weekend.

O'Brien described the break-in as "politics brought down to the gutter level." But he did not directly accuse either the White House or the Nixon re-election committee of involvement, saying he would wait until legal action brings out the full story.

The Nixon committee and the Republican National Committee both have denied involvement in the break-in, and have publicly deplored the incident.

The Democrats accused the GOP Committee of conspiring to violate federal laws that protect political advocacy, assure free association and the right to vote, and safeguard persons from electronic snooping.

A man who had been serving as chief security officer for both the Nixon re-election group and the GOP National Committee was arrested along with four others early Saturday morning inside Democratic headquarters. The GOP groups fired the security man, James McCord of Rockville, yesterday.

It also has been disclosed that the name of a part-time consultant

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LAWRENCE O'BRIEN

CHARLES COLSON

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Since that time, Hunt has dropped out of sight and is being sought by law enforcement investigators and newsmen. His employer, Robert F. Bennett, president of the Robert R. Mullen and Co. public relations firm here, said of Hunt, "I received word this morning he was going to New York to work on a project we have going there."

At the White House, press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that Colson, in a conversation this morning, "made it quite clear to me that he was in no way involved" in the attempt to bug Democratic headquarters.

Ziegler was asked specifically whether Colson had dispatched Hunt to Miami two weeks or so ago when he is reported to have met with Barker. First saying that "I doubt that was the case," Ziegler added that, based on his conversation with Colson, "I think I can say quite specifically that was not the case."

Ziegler confirmed that John N. Mitchell, head of the Committee for Re-Election of the President, was in the White House this morning, but said he did not see President Nixon. He said he did not know whom Mitchell saw.

The principal link reported between the GOP and the five men arrested on charges of breaking into the DNC headquarters in the early morning hours last Saturday is James W. McCord Jr., one of the suspects still being held in the District Jail.

McCord, a former employe of both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency, was at the time of the break-in the chief security officer for both the Republican National Committee and the committee in charge of President Nixon's re-election campaign.

McCord was hired as a Republican security coordinator on the recommendation of a ranking Secret Service agent, sources said yesterday.

The sources identified the agent as Al Wong, head of the Secret Service's Technical Security Division. Both Wong and an official spokesman for the Secret Service declined to confirm or deny that Wong knew McCord or had recommended him.

There were, meantime, increasing indications at Metropolitan Police Headquarters that the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office gradually are assuming control of the case. Police Chief Jerry Wilson

named Inspector Ernest J. Prete, second-in-command of the Criminal Investigation Division, to coordinate all information on the Watergate incident.

But privately some officials were acknowledging that control of the case was passing into federal hands. Some police viewed these indications with a mixture of relief and curiosity at being rid of a "hot potato" political case. No Federal charges have been made against the suspects.

The White House official linked indirectly to the growing dispute, Colson is special counsel to the President. Colson's White House assignments have led to his involvement in several domestic political controversies in recent years.

In the current case, his name has surfaced because of the reported ties between the suspects in the break-in and Hunt.

The two address books mentioning Hunt were among a considerable amount of materials taken from the suspects at the scene of the break-in and later, with a search warrant, from the two rooms on lower floors of the Watergate.

Both federal officials and police acknowledged today that Hunt's name and phone number, with the notation "W. House" and "W. H." were in two address books linked to two of the suspects.

Police officials handed the address books and other documentary evidence over to assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, Earl J. Silbert, at a lengthy meeting yesterday, officials said. A large group of FBI men reportedly was present when the evidence was given to the prosecutor's office even though there is no federal charge outstanding against the suspects.

"We Don't Know"

A police official, meanwhile, said today that Washington police already have discussed with Hunt the appearance of his name in the address books. He said police are hopeful of shedding some light on the deepening mystery.

Ken Clawson, a White House aide, referred to the FBI queries about any role Hunt or Colson may have had in the lives of the suspects.

He said the FBI entered the case at first only on the proposition that there may have been a presumed violation of the Interception of Communications Act, which makes bugging a federal crime.

Asked why Hunt's name and the reference to his part-time White House affiliation might be in two of the suspects' address books, Clawson said, "We don't know."

Clawson said Hunt worked as a consultant for the White House on 63 days in 1971 and another 24½ days this year, drawing a per diem fee of approximately \$100 for each day. He was last employed on March 29, Clawson said.

Hunt worked principally on two projects — declassification of Defense Department documents following last year's controversy over the "Pentagon Papers," and the gathering intelligence material on narcotics addiction, Clawson said.

Clawson said Hunt worked for White House staff members other than Colson on both of those projects. "Colson wasn't involved," added Clawson. "I know it (news of the raid on the DNC offices) was as much of a surprise to him as it was to the rest of us."

Clawson also said Colson and Hunt were "personal friends," dating back to 1966 when Colson was president and Hunt was vice president of the Brown University Club of Washington. In addition, Colson recommended to others on the White House staff that Hunt be hired to work on the declassification project, the spokesman said.

Ziegler said today that the President is not involving himself personally in any investigation of the incident, but is "confident that the process of law will run its course."

Ziegler brushed aside urgings by newsmen that he produce Colson at a briefing to answer questions himself, or advise Colson to take telephone calls from newsmen.

One reporter asked Ziegler if he would "advise Colson that this is an open administration and that he should take our calls." Ziegler replied, "That is up to him. It is also a free administration."

Under a barrage of further questions about Hunt's reported trip to Miami, Ziegler was asked if Colson had told him specifically that Hunt had gone to Miami on Colson's behalf.

Ziegler replied that he had not seen the report of the Miami trip when he talked with Colson. But from his conversation with Colson, Ziegler said, "I am sufficiently confident that the premise of the question (whether Colson sent Hunt to Miami) is not one that would hold."

He said that Hunt has not worked at the White House since March. He said he had been employed "from time to time" over a period of about a year as a consultant, primarily in regard to efforts to control the flow of narcotics into this country.

Both the Republican National Committee and the Committee for the Re-election of the President announced yesterday that they had fired McCord as their chief security agent.

The RNC first hired McCord last October, and paid him a salary of \$625 monthly through February. In January, he was placed in charge of six guards assigned to the committee's new headquarters building on Capitol Hill.

In March, he received a belated salary increase to \$667 monthly, reflecting his additional responsibilities as the officer in charge of the guard personnel, according to an RNC spokesman. When a reporter from The Star asked two guards this week about McCord, however, the men denied any knowledge of him.

The Nixon re-election committee had been paying McCord a monthly salary of \$1,209 since January. In addition, his security consulting firm, McCord Associates, Inc., of Rockville, received more than \$3,000 from the President's campaign committee in April and May for the rental and purchase of security equipment and services.

2 Experts Hired

At the same time, it was learned that the Republicans have retained two other security experts to help in the planning of their national convention in Miami Beach in late August. Both are former high-ranking officials of the FBI.

They are Thomas McAndrews and James Gale, both of whom are technically employed by another GOP organization, the arrangements committee of the Republican National Convention. According to McAndrews, their responsibilities include only security in the convention hall and convention headquarters in Florida.

The FBI was understood to be seeking court-approved warrant authorizing a search of McCord's home and office in Rockville.

In addition, the FBI was reported to be planning to interview Miguel A. Suarez, a Miami businessman and self-described "Nixonian," who is Barker's partner in three Florida real estate ventures, all involving the sale of condominium apartments.

McCord remains in jail here pending the posting of \$30,000 bail. The remaining four suspects, all Miami residents, must post a higher bail of

\$50,000 each to gain their release prior to their trial. "If they make bail, we have instructions to notify the FBI," a jail official said yesterday.

Harold H. Titus Jr., U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, announced yesterday that "a federal grand jury in U.S. District Court will be available to receive evidence in this investigation." In charge of that probe will be Earl J. Silbert, Titus' principal assistant.

Affidavit Made Public

An affidavit for a search warrant in the case, made public today, said that a briefcase carried by one of the arrested men contained "a device which appeared to be the body of a bomb."

The affidavit, used in connection with a warrant executed Sunday by police and FBI in the Watergate Hotel rooms of the arrested men, did not elaborate on whether or not the device actually was a bomb or capable of exploding.

But Deputy Police Chief Charles Wright said the device did not contain any explosives. As described by Wright, it was a squarish box somewhat resembling the receiver assembly of a telephone. Inside, he said, there were four or five flash-light batteries, a small transistor, and a timing device that appeared to be part of a wristwatch.

Police said the device was of the sort that also could have been used to set an electronic listening device working, but they acknowledged it could have been used to trigger an explosion, too.

The possibility that a sixth suspect might be involved in the case was still being actively pursued by law enforcement officials, who have learned that at least six men — including all of those now under arrest except McCord — were registered at the Watergate Hotel here May 26-29.

According to police records, an attempt was made on May 28 to unscrew a lock on a door at the Democratic National Committee, located in the Watergate Office Building adjacent to the hotel.

When the men checked out of the hotel the day after the nighttime incident, their bill was paid in cash by a man identified only as "E. Warren." None of the imprisoned men has that name, but police think it may be an alias used by McCord.

Among the materials confiscated from the suspects was an exposed roll of film for a sub-miniature Minox camera, but the camera itself was not in the possession of the men when they were surprised by police at the DNC offices. (An earlier report incorrectly stated that the camera was found by police.)

The missing camera is one of several aspects of the case which has led officials to a continuing search for an additional man.

In addition, Frank J. Wills, the 24-year-old Watergate security guard who altered police early Saturday to the possibility that intruders might be in the DNC offices, said last night that "evidently someone was following me around" while he made his rounds in the basement of the building at the same time the suspects were in the sixth-floor DNC offices.

Wills said that he removed some tape which apparently had been placed on four basement doors to prevent their locks from functioning, but that when he returned to the area 10 minutes later the tape had been reapplied.

Radios Used

"Whoever it was must have been behind me all the time. I can't think of any other explanation," Wills said. "He must have been on the stairway and watching me when I took the tape off."

Federal authorities have traced part of the \$6,300 in new consecutively numbered \$100 bills which police found in possession of the suspects to Philadelphia and Miami, the New York Daily News reported today. About \$3,200 was traced to Philadelphia.

The paper quoted a "highly placed federal source" as saying that about "50 percent of the hundred dollar bills were issued in two separate sets to Federal Reserve banks in those two cities."

This story, compiled by Robert Walters, was written from reports by Lance Gay, John Mathews, Jeremiah O'Leary, Shirley Elder, Martha Angle, Walter Taylor, Winston Groom, Ronald Sarro and Dana Bullen.