

Nixon Rejects Special Watergate Quiz

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By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post

E. Howard Hunt, former White House consultant, leaves law office after making deposition in bugging suit.

President Nixon again rejected yesterday the request from Democrats that a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate the Watergate bugging case.

In a press conference at the Western White House, the President noted that there are now no less than five separate investigations of the incident and his campaign finances stemming from it.

"Now, with all of these investigations that are being conducted, I don't believe that adding another special prosecutor would serve any useful purpose," he said.

The five investigations are those by the FBI, a congressional committee, the General Accounting Office, and separate investigations by the President's campaign manager, Clark MacGregor, and the chief Republican fundraiser, Maurice H. Stans.

In addition, the President said a sixth investigation has been conducted and completed by John Dean, special counsel to the President.

"I can say categorically that his investigation indicates that no one in the White House staff, no one in this administration, presently employed, was involved in this very bi-

zarre incident," the President said.

President Nixon continued: "What really hurts in matters of this sort is not the fact that they occur, because overzealous people in campaigns do things that are wrong.

"What really hurts is if you try to cover it up," he said.

He emphatically said that his administration would insure the investigations were not covered up.

The President made no reference to an independent investigation being conducted by Richard E. Gerstein, the state's attorney of Dade County in the Miami area where four of the five Watergate suspects live.

Those linked to the incident who were on the White House staff but are no longer presently employed" there are E. Howard Hunt, a former White House consultant, and G. Gordon Liddy, a former staffer who was fired as the finance counsel to the Nixon re-election committee.

In addition, the former head of the entire Nixon re-election campaign, former attorney general John N. Mitchell, and the former Secretary

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The Watergate Caper: Hunt's deposition/appearance HW 8/30/72

Hunt spent 1 1/2 hours in the Williams office yesterday for the deposition. This is a remarkably short while for such a character and such competent lawyers and with Hunt's background, not the least of which is at the least a major part in engineering a disaster for JFK by making prohibited promises + the entire fiasco of the Bay Pigs. His involvement with Barker was hardly covered in this time. So, I suspect he in effect or reality too the fifth and the time was spent in legal bickering or this or both. TV didn't do well getting his picture as he left. NBC's was almost meaningless. CBS was a bit better. Shore got to speak to him a bit on the elevator in another bldg. (Shore, by the way, is the only one I heard who translated Nixon's comments into clear and meaningful English. Transcript attached to today's Post story.) Bob Burchette, an experienced man, got a head-on shot of Hunt seemingly at a doorway. As I'd thought on CBS viewing, even more from this picture does the lower part of his face seem familiar. On TV he has his hand over his face most of the time. He was also carrying an attached case, wearing a straw hat (not the IN narrow brimmed, either) and large sunglasses. Same in Burchette's shot, but that shows the rest of his face clearly. The nose, the mouth and the wrinkles seem familiar. I could be imagining this. I haven't any idea of where I did or could have seen him. But there is the real or imagined familiarity of the nose, mouth, wrinkles and general appearance. I have a feeling of having seen him without hat and glasses and some time before the large ties and shirts to accommodate came "in". This can be illusionary, but I got the feeling on TV and have it more now.

Interestingly, on leaving the deposition-taking today and pleading complete and total ignorance. Colson did admit knowing Hunt for some time, meaning over a period of years before hiring him in 1971. He claimed Hunt did not work in his office. Nobody asked why he was assigned to Colson's office, got his phone calls there, had calls referred from there. Colson's deposition took 2 hrs, which I think bears out problems with Hunt's, which should have taken much longer.

Nixon Rejects Plea for

WATERGATE, From A1 of Commerce, Stans are no longer in the administration.

The Democrats have charged that it is impossible for the Nixon administration's Justice Department to conduct an impartial investigation of the June 17 Watergate incident. They have asked the President three times for a special prosecutor and each time the request has been denied.

Yesterday the President went on to acknowledge that his re-election committee has probably made some "technical violations" of the new campaign finance disclosure law.

He said these violations would be corrected, but added that he believed the Democrats have made similar errors.

Mr. Nixon was responding for the first time to the GAO report that cited his re-election committee for possible violations involving \$350,000 of his campaign funds.

Stans, the chief Nixon fund-

raiser, has called the GAO report inaccurate and incomplete, but the President made no such charge yesterday.

In a related matter, it was learned yesterday, Stans has agreed to discuss the GAO report with the staff of the House Banking and Currency Committee, which is also investigating the Watergate incident.

A spokesman for Wright Patman (D-Tex.), chairman of the Committee, said Stans was asked for an "informal interview" to go over his objections to the GAO report.

The GAO said that 11 separate possible violations of the campaign finance disclosure act center on \$350,000 that Stans once had in his safe. The money may have been left over from the 1968 election when Stans was also President Nixon's chief fund-raiser, the GAO said.

Included in the \$350,000 is the \$114,000 that has been traced to the bank account of

one of the Watergate suspects, Bernard L. Barker.

Barker and the other four suspects arrested at the Watergate June 17 are being sued for damages of \$1 million by the Democrats in a separate civil action stemming from the incident.

In Miami yesterday, Enrique Valledor, president of the Florida Association of Realtors and Barker's former boss, said Barker told him that an unidentified source is paying for his attorney in the \$1 million civil case.

Valledor said that Barker came to visit earlier this month, saying he was worried about losing his real estate license. Valledor related the following conversation:

Valledor: "I say, what about this suit of \$1 million? Aren't you worried?"

Barker: "I'm not worrying. They're paying for my attorneys."

Valledor: "Who are they?"

Watergate Bugging Prosecutor

Barker: "I can't tell you."

Valledor went on to say that Barker would lose his real estate license only if he is convicted of a serious crime.

At the same time, Edward Bennett Williams, lawyer for the Democrats in their \$1 million invasion of privacy suit growing from the Watergate incident, continued to take secret testimony from persons allegedly linked to the case.

E. Howard Hunt, the former White House consultant and CIA agent, appeared yesterday in a straw hat, dark glasses and a light beige suit. He tried to avoid reporters who waited in the lobby of Williams' law firm office in downtown Washington.

Today Charles W. Colson, special counsel to the President, will give his formal deposition to the Democrats' lawyers. Colson is a friend of Hunt and recommended that he be hired at the White House.

A federal judge has ordered that all the depositions in the \$1 million suit be kept sealed with the court and kept secret pending his order.

U.S. District Court Judge Charles R. Richey, the judge in the case, however, has indicated that he may unseal the depositions in the near future.

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