

December 22, 1974, Seymour Hersh broke a story that rapidly grew into a major scandal and several investigations of the intelligence and investigatory community. It centered around the initial disclosure of proscribed CIA domestic activities of which the surveillance here earlier reported was but part. While this was secret only because the media refused to report it, both Houses of Congress got into the act and then President Ford appointed a whitewashing commission.

On NBC's Today show of January 15, 1975, John Dean and ~~the~~ Jeb Magruder were both quoted ~~as~~ on the Helms-Hunt relationship. In two days of conversations with NBC's Carl Stern Dean quoted Colson as saying that "Hunt was closer to Helms than Helms was willing to admit." Magruder, interviewed by Barbara Walters, put it, "Helms was very close to Howard Hunt...over a period of years."

Colson had seen the ~~the~~ "CIA's central file on Watergate." He also knew ~~and had~~ ~~discussed in private to the Hersh story~~ of CIA's proscribed domestic activity "and discussed it quite openly before" Hersh's story appeared, when the trio were in jail together.

That Helms helped Hunt with his books and also gave copies away confirmed an earlier story attributed to Tad Szulc.

Dean added in an interview with The Washington Post "that Nixon had talked with (Supreme Court Chief) Justice (Warren) Burger shortly after this suit to block release of the tapes was filed and it gave him confidence that he indeed was going to win the lawsuit." ^f

Colson confirmed these reports when interviewed by Walter for airing on the same show 2/7/75.

That the Helms-Hunt relationship was closer and of a different nature than Helms represented in his testimony was known to investigators prior to any of this Helms testimony but Helms was not confronted with this or any other ~~evasion or deception~~ proof of evasion or deception - or perjury - during that testimony.