

Hunt testified he led domestic CIA unit

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From Wire Services

Washington—E. Howard Hunt, a Watergate burglar, told the Senate Watergate committee last year in still-unpublished testimony that he served as the first chief of covert action for the Central Intelligence Agency's Domestic Operations Division.

Hunt, testifying December 18, 1973, before the Senate investigators in closed session, revealed that his domestic activities included the secret financing of a Washington news agency as well as the underwriting of the popular Fodor's travel guides, which are distributed by the David McKay Corporation, a New York publisher.

A copy of Hunt's testimony before the Watergate committee, marked "confidential," was made available to the New York Times.

In a telephone interview, Hunt said he spent about four years working for the Domestic Operations Division, beginning shortly after the unit was set up by the CIA in 1962.

Hunt, free on bail and living in Miami pending an appeal, denied any involvement in or knowledge of domestic spying on radicals and other dissidents by the domestic division. But he added that some of his projects from the 1962-1966 period—which dealt largely with the subsidizing and manipulation of news and publishing organizations—did seem "to violate the intent of the agency's charter."

Meanwhile, the White House and the CIA refused to discuss the departure of top counterintelligence officers in a shake-up reportedly spurred by allegations that the agency was involved in domestic spying.

"Whatever is happening at the CIA, the President is being kept informed about it," Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, told reporters at Vail, Colo. Mr. Nessen added that President Ford has been in touch with William E. Colby, the CIA director, and the vacationing Secretary of State, Henry A. Kissinger.

The agency also has refused any comment on the agency's counterintelligence division. However, the three men—Raymond Rocca, Newton S. Miller and William J. Hood—confirmed Sunday their intention to leave the CIA at the end of this month.

Along with the previously revealed resignation of James J. Angleton, the counterintelligence chief, the three departures leave vacant the top command of the division, which is known to have disagreed sharply with Mr. Colby over detente with the Soviet Union and Mr. Colby's public discussions of agency activities.

Mr. Ford has said he will not discuss the CIA until after his return to Washington Thursday and further conferences with Mr. Colby and others.

Sources said Mr. Angleton's name was mentioned in one draft of the 50-page report on the spying allegations that Mr. Colby sent to President Ford last week.

Mr. Angleton, named in published reports as the overseer of the alleged domestic spy operation, was identified by sources as having once served on an interagency panel that reported directly to the White House on the threat of domestic demonstrations and disturbances.