

Hunt aims to keep Nixon retired

MIAMI (AP) — Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt says he hopes to keep former President Richard Nixon in retirement by publishing allegations that Nixon authorized the second of the two Watergate break-ins in 1972.

Hunt, who was lookout man for the June 17, 1972, break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, said yesterday he had evidence against Nixon strong enough to stand up in court.

But Hunt would not tell reporters at a news conference what the evidence was. Nor would he reveal who would publish it or when.

Upset by Appearances

Hunt said he was upset that Nixon was "gathering a certain amount of momentum" by making public appearances after months of post-Watergate solitude.

"I think this would be disastrous for the American people if he were to be allowed to continue," he said.

Neither Nixon nor a spokesman could be reached for comment at the former president's retreat in San Clemente, Calif.

Hunt, 60, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and served 32 months in federal prisons. He was paroled in February 1978.

No Specifics

In a news conference at the office of his attorney, Ellis Rubin, Hunt gave no specifics about his charge that Nixon authorized the second of the two Watergate break-ins. It was at the second break-in that burglars were caught trying to fix bugging devices that had been installed in a previous illegal entry.

Rubin said he wanted to avoid "compromising the manuscript" by giving details of the accusations. Rubin said Hunt's writing was designed for "periodical" publication.

Rubin said Hunt's article asserts that Nixon "not only knew in advance of the two Watergate break-ins, but in fact, had authorized them."