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E. HOWARD HUNT

Howard Hunt Ties Nixon To Break-In

MIAMI (UPI) — Saying former President Nixon should not be allowed to seek power as a "rehabilitated public figure," E. Howard Hunt claimed Tuesday that Nixon directed the second of the Watergate break-ins.

Without revealing the nature of his evidence, Hunt said, "I would say I have established a case that has never been made before."

The convicted Watergate burglar, who served 32 months in federal prison, said he was preparing a 4,400-word manuscript detailing the charge for publication "very soon" in an unnamed magazine.

Hunt said he had held back the information because he felt Nixon "should be left alone" as long as he stayed quietly in his San Clemente, Calif., sanctuary.

But he became disturbed

when Nixon started "sallying forth more often from his guarded precincts" and has "started to stick his nose in Republican politics."

Hunt said he was not vindictive, but felt the former president "should not be permitted to re-emerge as a rehabilitated public figure."

Nixon, said Hunt, not only knew about the 1972 Watergate burglaries, but was the directing force behind the second intrusion into the Democratic National Headquarters.

This contradicts Nixon's version of the events. On June 22, 1972, five days after the second break-in, Nixon said there was no White House involvement and he has maintained his lack of personal involvement.

Ellis Rubin, Hunt's lawyer, ventured that Hunt's version of the Watergate events would hold up in court and Rubin challenged Nixon to respond publicly and under oath to key questions about the break-ins.

A reporter asked Hunt, "Are you saying that former President Nixon not only knew in advance of the two Watergate break-ins, but, in fact, authorized them?"

"Yes," replied Hunt.

Rubin said Hunt decided to release the information he had because he was concerned