

Watergate convict wins libel suit

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Watergate conspirator

E. Howard Hunt broke down and cried after a jury agreed that he had been libeled by a newspaper article linking him to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The jury awarded him \$650,000 in damages Thursday for a 1978 article that appeared in *Spotlight*, a weekly newspaper owned by Liberty Lobby.

"I didn't care if the verdict was \$10 or a million," said Hunt. "Nothing really good — except my marriage — has happened to me in the last 10 years since Watergate."

The former CIA agent, who lives in Miami with his wife, Laura, had asked for \$3.6 million from Liberty Lobby. His attorney, Ellis Rubin, said Hunt's income dropped by \$27,000 in the year after publication of the Aug. 14, 1978, story, headlined "CIA to Nail Hunt for Kennedy Killing."

The article quoted a CIA memo as saying the agency "will have to explain Hunt's presence in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963 — the day President Kennedy was killed."