

The wiretapping incident has torn the veil of secrecy from the family's operations

costs down, deal with labor problems." Lamar's low-keyed personal style (Steadman says Lamar has never given him a direct order in the 15 years of their association) tends to make some people think of him as a sort of a Mr. Peepers with a yen to be a jock. "Actually," says Maxfield, "he's Clark Kent. He is a mild-mannered, meek, everyday guy. But when money needs to be committed, he goes into that little phone booth and comes out with an 'S' on his shirt."

A lucky 11 trusts

The bedrock of Lamar's personal fortune is the trust that his father set up for him in 1935 as part of a tax strategy planned with the aid of veteran Hunt attorney J. B. McEntire. At that time, a trust was established for each of the Hunt children. In 1958, the pattern was repeated when the elder Hunt established trusts for each of the second Mrs. Hunt's children, calling them Loyal Trusts 1, 2, 3, and 4. Except for Hunt Oil Co., which went entirely to Mrs. Hunt, H. L. Hunt left the bulk of his personal holdings to the Loyal trusts, whose beneficiaries are Ray Hunt, Ruth Jane Hunt, Mrs. Randall A. (Helen LaKelley) Kreiling, and Mrs. Mark A. (Swanee Grace) Meeks.

The size of these trusts is unknown, but one of the problems facing the Hunt family is how to commingle 11 separate fortunes (those of the 10 children plus the Ruth Ray Hunt Trust) to maximum advantage. Dallas friends of son-in-law "Randy" Kreiling say the question is being debated warmly within the family. Although Kreiling's role in the Great Western United takeover was relatively minor, it did demonstrate a willingness between the two sibling groups to cooperate.

Lamar Hunt observes that, since the bulk of H. L. Hunt's estate was left to Mrs. Hunt, "it was a natural thing for Ray to be the person who looks after it." Lamar adds: "It does not mean that Ray will run the business. He will be making an orderly transition, a change to whatever happens. He will have the responsibility of making decisions in relationship to Dad's property, but Dad's operation was much simpler."

There will be no move to

take Hunt Oil public, Lamar says. "Our philosophy is not one of promotion of stock and promotion to the public," he says. "Each of us has his own interests. All of us operate in the oil business, sometimes together, sometimes as an independent oil operator. Hunt Oil, which was my Dad's company, will be run basically by employees of the company. We all will continue to operate out of the Hunt Oil office."

Maxfield, who has been observing the Hunts for nine years as Lamar's partner, believes that Hunt Oil and Placid Oil will carry on the monolithic base of the family fortune. "It's like a tree trunk, with each brother having his own branch," he says. "Oil is not an expression of the personality of the sons as it was of the old man. The expression of the brothers will be in the branches—Ray in real estate; Lamar sports; Bunker horses, commodities, and agriculture; Herbert in real estate, residential development, and commodities." And while the brothers are branching out, Maxfield believes, "they will run the oil companies collectively with a professional staff."

Stormy weather closes in

Meanwhile, a threatening cloud looms on the family's horizon. Not only

is an oft-delayed trial ahead for Bunker and Herbert Hunt on the wiretapping charges, but there is also the threat of more indictments against them by a federal grand jury that has been sitting in Dallas for more than a year. The Hunts claim their wiretapping activities were aimed at uncovering suspected embezzlements from their father's food concern. In their only statement of the matter, over a year ago, they cited "extensive, unexplained losses" suffered by the company. "We only sought to protect our father and his property, as any others would have done," they said.

But one of the wiretappers, Jon Joseph Kelly, says that the tapping was prompted by Bunker's and Herbert's suspicions that someone was trying to influence H. L. Hunt to leave the bulk of his estate to the second Mrs. Hunt and her children. Three of the wiretap victims back up Kelly's version.

Just two weeks ago, in their syndicated column, Jack Anderson and Les Whitten aired a recurring Dallas rumor that the grand jury is looking into an alleged "\$50,000 to \$60,000 payoff" from Bunker to the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, James O. Eastland of Mississippi, in return for Eastland's assistance in getting a parole for the other wiretapper, Houston private eye Patrick W. McCann III. Eastland wrote a letter on McCann's behalf, but Bunker has denied that there was any payoff.

The Dallas grand jury is said to be mulling the Eastland connection, as well as the circumstances surrounding the three-year lapse between the wiretappers' arrest and the indictment of Herbert and Bunker on Feb. 23, 1973. A Hunt family lawyer told *Dallas Morning News* investigative reporter Earl Golz that Bunker managed to strike a bargain with the Justice Dept. in which "there would be no prosecution of the Hunts if they performed certain actions; they performed the actions, but there was an indictment anyway."

The actions, reportedly made after 1972 meetings with former President Richard M. Nixon and former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst, included Bunker's providing Justice with a list of Al Fatah agents in the U. S. He had secured the list privately because he feared he was on the Al Fatah death list because of his Libyan holdings.

For the Hunts, the wiretapping episode has proved disastrous. Bunker and Herbert could receive prison sentences. And, more than anything else in the family's history, it has torn the tightly woven curtain of secrecy behind which the family has lived and worked for more than four decades.



Ray Hunt (right) looks over his Dallas development.