

Beginning with the testimony of John Ehrlichman, which started July 24, 1973, there was a great public bathing of the CIA's involvement in White House domestic illegalities, special illegalities for the CIA, which is banned by law from such domestic activities. This seemingly full airing was not. It was a suppression made to seem like full exposure. All that was new evolved as the consequence of Senatorial fumbling, the accidental asking of unplanned questions. The fumlbers, unaware of what they had blundered into, didn't pursue the leads they got. The papers ignored it totally.

That was an exciting moment for me, because I knew of Nixon's previous associations with several of the CIA's dramatis personae.

In varying degrees, the committee went through the motions of asking Haldeman, the two generals, Cushman and ~~Wickers~~ Walters, Helms, and then Kleindienst, Gary and Peterson about what the CIA did for Hunt and how they knew.

It added nothing to what had come out in the scandalous end of the Ellsberg trial. It adds up to the White House, through amnesia Ehrlichman, asking a few little favors for Hunt, who then, on his own, extended them and was hauled up short by the vigilant and already-sorrowful CIA.

What brought it to a head, all those who knew and would talk agreed, was Hunt's demand for a specific secretary, then stationed in France. Perish the thought, the CIA couldn't do anything like that. This, too, was not news, but there on TV, all those diligent public servants and all their righteous indignation, it sure looked good.

The truth is less pretty.

Hunt was not turned down on a secretary. They just had their own, hidden reasons for refusng him "the young lady", unmarriad, the one of all the fair clerk-typists in the entire CIA who "was the only secretary he would accept because of 'the loyalty factor'."

This language is from an unsigned "MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD", "SUBJECT: Request by Mr. Howard Hunt for Special Agency Secretarial Support." It is dated 23 August 1971, has "EA/DDCI" typed at the bottom and "SECRET" stamped at the top. My copy is a xerox

of the committee's copy. So, they had it.

Cushman knew about it. He is the one who sent it to Helms, whose office stamped receipt on the "buck" slip I also have. Helms got it when it was typed, August 23. He is represented by the initial DCI, standing for Director, Central Intelligence. The routing slip is to Helm, back to DDCI, Deputy Director, Central Intelligence, Cushman, who then sent it to the Executive Director, who received it August 30 and returned it to DDCI. Under "remarks" on this ordinary routing slip, over the initial "C" is "FYI and guidance on how to handle." For Ex. Dir. "FYI only."

The response, over the initial "H", is "If Hunt renews the request, please let me know and I'll speak to Ehrlichman at once."

This part the committee read, and Helms drew himself up in the chair and allowed as how he wouldn't sit or stand for such shenanigans.

The only request testified to was for a secretary stationed in Paris. That's all. And, properly and offended, it was also testified to, the CIS rejected it, firmly.

The numbered paragraph of the memo begin with a little more, if still very little, description of Hunt's role in the CIA. He is "a retired Clandestine Service officer." With this in front of him, Helms mumbled something about he thought maybe "Hunt had handled propaganda activities. It then involves Ehrlichman in the request, the same Ehrlichman who had no idea what Hunt was doing." He said.

"...to request that the Agency furnish him a secretary for a temporary assignment of between 30 and 90 days. He said that he needed the secretary to work on a highly sensitive assignment and that Mr. John Ehrlichman had suggested that he call General Cushman."

Breaking and entering and burglary are fairly described as "highly sensitive." They are this is it is only a psychiatrist's office that is broken into and made into a shambles.

It is less of an exaggeration to use "highly sensitive" when the homes and offices are foreign diplomats, in Washington and at the UN, are broken into, rifled and made into nasty messes in quest of secret papers (not found).

"2. Mr. Hunt said that he wanted the services of a specified individual, Miss [name masked before xeroxing], who was working in the Paris Station. He said that he didn't want Chief, EUR to know that he or the White House was involved in the request. He suggested that the Director's office should recall the young lady at once, explaining to all concerned that she was urgently needed for the unspecified special assignment. He again stressed that the White House involvement should not be mentioned to anyone but General Cushman or the Director."

One wonders how dangerously subversive, how utterly un^{able}dependent, how big-mouthed, or how excessive a drinker the Chief of all of CIA in Europe must be for the White House and Hunt to have such misgivings ~~as~~ about him. One is also prompted to marvel at the rare attributes of this "young lady" that ~~she~~ she and she alone of all clerk-typists in spookdom could be trusted with this "sensitive assignment".

All of Paragraph 3, which would seem to be a biography of Miss Blank, is masked out except that she "is a ___ year old GS-__ clerk typist from". Must be sensitive if her grade and place of origin have to be kept secret/ from the United States Senate.

Quite contrary to that righteous representation of ~~her~~ proper bureaucratic indignation over Hunt's persistence and/or White House chiselling (both versions are official and under oath), is the solicitude, the anxiety to be helpful even if to chisellers, in

"4. After discussing the case with General Cushman, I informed Mr. Hunt that the Agency would be very reluctant to withdraw [this time even the "Miss" is masked] in the middle of her overseas assignment. It would involve unnecessary expense and would disrupt the work of the Paris Station. I suggested that if Mr. Hunt would furnish us with the qualifications desired we might be able to provide a fully qualified secretary from Headquarters. Mr. Hunt replied that Miss _____ was the only secretary he would accept because of the "loyalty factor," and he would withdraw the request if he could not get her. I suggested that he take the matter up with General Cushman if it would make him feel better. He replied that he might do this but would first talk to Mr. Ehrlichman. Several days have gone by and we have heard no more of the matter.

Little wonder. Hunt and his gang of heroes was getting ready to rip off the psychiatrist's office, a lateral description of what they did to the filing cabinets and other doors and drawers. They were proper secret agents, though. They photographed their failure, showing all the damage, even Liddy in one of the pictures, which interests us separately. Then, not trusting the White House photographer or any other, Hunt gave the camera with the exposed film in it to a CIA agent he phoned ahead to have meet him ^{Hunt} at the airport. ~~Work~~ did save processing expenses, but it was costly for the government.

For the White House, too, as it turned out.

The semi-perpetually amnesiac Ehrlichman couldn't remember talking to Cushman,

the four-star general soon to be made Commandant of the Marine Corp by his boss, who also happened to be an old friend of Cushman's as Cushman, although these CIA files don't show it, also was of Hunt.

Another "buck" slip would seem to indicate that Ehrlichman and Cushman were not exactly strangers. This became a point because Ehrlichman he had not phoned Cushman. Ehrlichman persisted with sufficient vigor to inoculate Cushman with some of that White House amnesia, which sometimes doesn't really hurt the career military.

The slip is from DDCI, to DCI, who returned it to DDCI, where executive assistant KW, Karl Wagner, initiated and forwarded to the third routing point, "ER-FILE Howard Hunt."

Cushman's August ~~27~~³¹ handwritten note reads, "I called John Ehrlichman ~~for~~ Friday and explained why we could not meet these requests. I indicated that Hunt was becoming a ~~serious~~ pain in the neck. John said he would restrain Hunt."

Opposite "Friday" in the margin "27 Aug 71" is written.

At the bottom, with the same illegible initial as appears after ~~WH~~ DCI, is "Good."

Reference to Ehrlichman as "John" is not the only indication Cushman and he knew each other fairly well. The memo euhred out of Cushman by Ehrlichman and addressed to him 10 January 1973 with the typed but unsigned signature "R.E.Cushman, General, USMC", also is stamped "SECRET" (by 056047). The subject is "Contact with Mr. E. Howard Hunt."

The first of the four numbered paragraphs relates, among other things, that the call from the White House announcing that "Hunt would call on me to ask for some support" was "over the White House line direct to my office as Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency." What Ehrlichman really wanted is, "I cannot recollect at this late date who placed the call, but it was someone with whom I was acquainted, as opposed to a stranger."

"Acquainted" as in "John", ~~was~~^{according} to Cushman's contemporaneous memos.

This date, January 10, was well after The Watergate but well before exposure of

the great "national security" operation of the Labor Day weekend, Operation Shrink. Ehrlichman's desire for what the spooks call a "cut-off" is understandable. And who knows, maybe those earlier memos saying "John Ehrlichman called me" wouldn't surface? However, it is not the only good reason. Another is

"2. Mr. Hunt stated that he had to elicit information from an individual whose ideology he was not certain of and for that reason would like to talk to him under an alias and requested that I provide some documentation to back up his ~~former~~ alias identity. He said this was a one-time interview. I said that, yes, we would provide a driver's license and what is called pocket litter which would indicate the identity which he wished to assume for this one-time operation."

This is translatable into non-Ehrlichman, Non-Cushman, non-CIA, Non-Senate committee Englishman, if Mrs. Beard and her children don't resent Hunt's reference to her as "him".

Hunt and Liddy "spirited", the word used, Mrs. Beard away from those bad, bad Judiciary Senators and those ~~prying~~ prying busbodies of the FBI while the White House, the Mitchell-Kleindienst operation, ITT and an odd bag of others were trying to make a fake out of the memo she really wrote. That incriminating one saying that the Nixon people, including Mitchell, had, in effect bargained settlement of a massive anti-trust suit - value into the billions - against ITT for a \$400,000 contribution to the Republican convention through an ITT subsidiary, Sheraton Hotels.

They took her to Denver. If she didn't know them before, by the time they had crossed more than half the country, it seems a fair guess that she knew what they looked like. Later a statement was wanted from her ~~saying that she was not~~ denying the memo. That "highly sensitive assignment so crucial to the "national security" fell to our hero of the Bay of Pigs.

Hunt's concern was not this "individual whose ideology he was not certain of." There was absolutely no ~~an~~ "uncertainty" about the "ideology" of ITT's very effective lady lobbyist. It was, rather, that anyone who saw him going to, into and leaving her hospital room might recognize him. It is for this that he needed the disguise, that red wig he never did get on straight.

That was a "one-time operation", though, because it didn't hold up after he came back with the statement.

In fairness to the CIA, whose Technical Services people were offended at the descriptions of Hunt in that wig in Denver, they claim, privately, as befits spooks, that he wasn't wearing ~~them~~ their wig that day.

And in fairness to the committee, which seems to have had some reluctance about thorough questioning of the right witnesses about what it had on them and theirs in ITT's confidential files, they ~~were~~ were all anxious to get started on their vacations. No more innocent explanation for their failure to question Ehrlichman and the CIA witnesses on all the contents of these documents suggests itself.

Cushman has a nice touch in this unsigned memo addressed to Ehrlichman, ~~aka~~ ~~aka~~ ~~aka~~ ~~aka~~ aka (cop shorthand for "also known as") "John".

Throughout the memo the addressee is referred to not as "you" but as "Mr. Ehrlichman." That is really the cut-off's cut-off.

In ~~the~~ another "SECRET" stamped "MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD" ~~is~~ there is ample justification for Cushman's "pain in the neck" designation, if those are the words he really used. ~~It~~ is unsigned, dated 30 August 1971 and has the names of the CIA's Technical Services Division people masked. ~~It is~~ ^{reports} Cushman's memo, reporting that ~~the~~ "Deputy Chief, TSD," telephoned on 27 August 1971 to report ~~that~~ additional requests from Mr. Howard Hunt. He said that Mr. Hunt had telephoned Mr. (), his regular TSD contact, on 26 August 1971 and asked him to meet a courier at the airport to receive exposed film and arrange for its development. Mr. Hunt also arranged to pick up the developed film later. Mr. () said that the pseudonym of Mr. Hunt's colleague, whose identity remains unknown to use, is Roy Anderson."

This film seems to have been the casing of the Ellsberg job. note "regular contact."

"2. Mr. () said that he was increasingly concerned at the nature of assistance requested by Mr. Hunt. TSD had initially furnished Mr. Hunt with notinal [sic] pocket-litter documentation. Hunt was now pressing for fully backstopped documentation and support. A driver's license and credit cards (including Hertz and Avis) had been requested in pseudonym. Mr. () said that he had turned down this request. Hunt had asked that the Agency arrange to backstop a New York phone number either through an answering service there or by a hookup which would permit the New York number to be answered in Washington. Hunt also wanted the Agency to arrange for a New York business office to acknowledge him. Mr. () said this service was beyond TSD's ~~capacity~~ capability and would have to be handled by the Office of Security."

Hunt sure was out to give Nixon real "national security" service and to save him, if not the tax-payers, all he could. Hunt also knew providing these things was jo sweat for the CIA because they had supplied exactly these "support" services to him in the past, as I'd reconstructed as soon as his name was mentioned, before his arrest.

"3. I told Mr. () that Mr. Hunt's latest requests drew us even further into the sensitive area of domestic operations against Americans and that all such requests should be referred to General Cushman's office. "Meanwhile these requests should not be met."

The signature of EA/DDCI is hastily masked, not quite completely. Why he should need secrecy is not apparent. But if for some reason he did need a cover, Karl Wagner's is now blown.

~~XXXXX~~ Free-loader "unt didn't stop with that ~~xxxx~~ ^{yearning} for this "young woman" from Paris, reported in the August 23 memo. This was 12 days later.

There are several other things of passing interest in this last paragraph. "Sensitive area" to all outside CIA really mean "illegal." "Domestic operations against American" is not just sensitive. "It is absolutely forbidden by law. Helms had just before this made the only public speech of his long career in the spookery. In it he has assured the nation's editors that they never, absolutely never, did this. Trust us, he asked, and he was believed. In bid headlines, too.

This, however, is an admission that through Hunt and the "White House the CIA had already crossed the line into illegal activities at home. This is not an expression of fear about being drawn close to "domestic operations against Americans". It is apprehension about getting "even further into" these illegal activities.

It didn't stop Hunt entirely. He did have a cover address in Washington, but he was known by his right name there. His simple solution was a separate phone, one that didn't go through the office switchboard, one the secretaries were ordered not to answer in his absence.

That, however, is another part of the Watergate story. One the committee and the press ~~didn't~~ had deliberately stayed away from.

To ~~paraphrase~~ paraphrase Barry Goldwater, excess in pursuit of national security is no vice with the CIA only up to a point. This is one of the distinctions between the CIA and the White House, between Nixon and Helms, who Nixon soon bounced although Helms was but days from honorable retirement.

Doing that was quite exceptional. Somebody was pretty unhappy.

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