

Watergate Connection' Man Is Missing

CHICAGO (AP) — Legal researcher Sherman H. Skolnick, who has filed suit alleging a connection between

the Watergate incident, an anti-trust suit against a gas pipeline company and the December crash of a plane near Midway Airport, has been reported missing by an aide.

The aide, Leland Cole, said Skolnick had been missing since he left his home at 8:15 a.m. yesterday for a meeting to discuss aspects of the case.

Cole said Skolnick's driver, David Hoffman, was with him when he left his home and also was missing.

Skolnick was carrying an attache case full of documents related to his Watergate investigation, Cole said. Confined to wheelchair

"There's a possibility that it's a stunt," said Police Capt. Frank Sautkus, "and there's also a possibility that there's skulduggery involved. We have to play it straight. We have to assume Skolnick's missing."

Cole said Skolnick who is confined to a wheelchair, filed suit in Circuit Court in early March alleging he was prevented from testifying during a government investigation of an airline jet crash at Midway Airport Dec. 8.

He said the suit contends that the crash was the result of sabotage. The suit also contends that persons killed in the crash had information on the Watergate incident and an alleged bribe connected with the dropping of a government anti-trust suit against a pipeline company, Cole said.

Mystery Source
Among those killed in the crash was Mrs. E. Howard Hunt, wife of one of the defendants who pleaded guilty in the Watergate trial. Her purse containing \$10,000 in cash was recovered from the wreckage, but the source of the money has not been traced. It has been turned

over to the executor of her estate.

In recent years Skolnick has filed numerous suits relating to conduct of government agencies, particularly the courts.

In 1970 he lost a suit that had attempted to force the National Archives to open its files on the assassination of President Kennedy.

Skolnick charged in his suit that five conspirators planned to kill Kennedy at the Army-Air Force football game Nov. 2, 1963 in Chicago, but the plan was thwarted when Kennedy canceled his appearance because of a cold. The assassination at-

tempt, Skolnick said, was then rescheduled for three weeks later in Dallas. The suit stated that less than an hour before Kennedy's scheduled arrival in Chicago, one of the alleged conspirators was arrested for a minor traffic violation. Skolnick contended the man, Thomas Arthur Vallee, "was a double for Lee Harvey Oswald."