

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF VIRGINIA)
)ss:
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX)

I, General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., USMC, being first duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I was the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence from 7 May 1969 to 31 December 1971.
2. I wish to state unequivocally that I had no knowledge before or after the fact of any illegal or unethical acts.
3. About 7 July 1971, Mr. John Ehrlichman of the White House called me and stated that Howard Hunt was a bona fide employee, a consultant on security matters, and that Hunt would come to see me and request assistance which Mr. Ehrlichman requested that I give. I wish to explain here that the Central Intelligence Agency comes under the authority of and works for the National Security Council which is, of course, the President himself advised by such assistants as are named in the National Security Act of 1947. I had known Mr. Ehrlichman for a good ten to twelve years and respected him highly as a man of complete honesty and devotion to duty. I also knew that he was one of the three Chiefs of Staff, as it were, to the President and that therefore he spoke with the authority of the President's name. This was also a time when the national security aspects of leaks of intelligence information were of great concern within the Government. Ehrlichman had been named within the White House as the man in charge of stopping security

leaks and overhauling the security regulations. The Central Intelligence Agency is charged with safeguarding intelligence sources and methods. From these facts, I then drew the following conclusion, which I believe any reasonable man would have reached, namely, that Howard Hunt had been hired by the White House to act in the security field and that the Central Intelligence Agency was being ordered to assist him.

4. Following this 7 July call, Mr. Hunt called on me in my office on 22 July 1971 and stated that he had a very sensitive one-time interview that the White House wanted him to hold with a person whose ideology he was not too sure of and that he dare not reveal his, Hunt's true identity. The White House therefore wanted assistance from our technical services in providing him with an identity which would be other than his own. He, of course, after twenty years in the CIA knew well that we had this capability. It must be recalled that Mr. Howard Hunt was a highly respected and honorably retired CIA employee of twenty years' service. I was not able to elicit any details of the interview which he stated that he had to conduct and he said that on White House orders he was not to reveal the nature and scope of this interview nor of the fact that he worked for the White House. He did assure me, however, that he was working to a good purpose in the interests of the country. Upon his assurance that this was, in his words, a "one-time operation -- in and out," I authorized the Technical Services Division to give him the necessary papers and disguise to enable him to conduct this interview so that he would not be known nor could he be recognized later. To the best of my recollection, I reported this a few days later to the

Director of Central Intelligence, Mr. Richard Helms, and he assented to what I had done. Toward the latter part of August 1971, it was reported to me that Mr. Hunt was becoming more and more unreasonable and demanding and was attempting to go far beyond the scope of the original instructions which I had given and which related to his statement that he had a one-time interview operation to conduct. I therefore immediately stopped all relationships with Mr. Hunt and gave instructions to that effect to the Agency. I called Mr. Ehrlichman on that matter on 27 August 1971, and I said that we cannot give such assistance because it might possibly be construed as involving the Agency in improper activities. I then explained the constraints on the Agency and finally advised Ehrlichman that the Agency would not have anything further to do with Hunt. I also advised him that in my opinion Mr. Hunt was of questionable judgment. He should know better than to even ask for such support. Therefore, I made this recommendation to Mr. Ehrlichman for him to do with as he deemed proper.

5. In conclusion, I wish to state that what I did was perfectly proper and was done in conformity with orders from higher authority. As soon as I found out that the individual involved, Mr. Howard Hunt, was not exercising proper judgment and was exceeding what I considered proper, I so reported it to his superior in the White House and to Mr. Helms. This stopped all further dealings with Mr. Hunt.


Robert E. Cushman, Jr.
General, USMC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of May, 1973.


Thomas P. Hogan
Notary Public

My Commission expires 8 October 1975

