

D.C. Lawyer Retained

By E. Howard Hunt

E. Howard Hunt, the former White House consultant linked to the suspects in the break-in of the Democratic National Committee headquarters, has retained Washington attorney William O. Bittman to represent him.

Bittman, declining to give further details, said he has

been in touch with federal officials in Hunt's behalf and indicated his client would be available for questioning if they desire.

Bittman declined to reveal his client's whereabouts, but said he would be available if and when federal investigators wish to talk.

Hunt has been missing since the five suspects were arrested inside the Democratic headquarters June 17, and an unidentified friend of his was quoted by the New York Times yesterday as saying that Hunt would "emerge" after obtaining a satisfactory lawyer.

The Times also quoted government officials as reporting that the FBI had called off its search for Hunt because he had obtained a lawyer who had told federal officials Hunt would be available.

Hunt was first linked to the alleged break-in and bugging plot when his name was found in the address books of two of the five suspects. Beside his name were the notations "W.H." and "W. House."

Bittman this morning stressed that no subpoenas or warrants had been issued for Hunt. He said he did not know when federal agents might want to talk to Hunt. "I don't want to speculate on what they (federal officials) want to do."

Bittman is a member of the prestigious law firm of Hogan & Hartson and on occasion has represented such clients as Florida financier Louis Wolfson, and a co-defendant in the 1970 bribery trial of former Maryland Sen. Daniel B. Brewster, the national mail order firm Spiegel, Inc.

As a federal prosecutor he successfully argued the government cases against Robert G. (Bobby) Baker and Teamster president James Hoffa.

Five suspects were arrested inside Democratic headquarters in the Watergate Apartments June 17. Among them was James W. McCord, Jr., former security chief for the Nixon Re-election Committee and the Republican National Committee. Police also confis-

cated some electronic surveillance equipment while making the arrests.

McCord was a CIA man for 19 years before he retired in 1970 to start his own security firm.

The D.C. Court of Appeals yesterday refused to change the bond condition set by a Superior Court judge for three of the men arrested in the break in.

Still being held in jail are Bernard L. Barker, a Miami realtor, Frank A. Sturgis, and Virgilio Roman Gonzalles.

The Appeals Court upheld a ruling by Judge James A. Belson, who ordered a surety bond of \$40,000 for Barker, a \$50,000 surety bond for Sturgis and a cash bond of \$40,000 for Gonzalles of which only \$4,000 must be posted.