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# More Fiction: Hunt(ing) for the Facts

By Maxine Cheshire

Convicted Watergate burglar and sometimes author E. Howard Hunt, who had two books in progress before his arrest, may turn out to be the only one of the original defendants with not financial worries over legal costs.

Hunt, author of some 40 fictional spy stories, apparently has had no trouble finding publishers for both manuscripts.

Neither book, according to his lawyer, William O. Bittman, is about Watergate. One is on the Bay of Pigs venture, in which Hunt was personally involved during his career as a CIA agent. The second work is a cloak-and-dagger thriller titled "The Berlin Ending."

G. P. Putnam is rushing to bring this one out in late summer. It is based on "three or four" actual CIA assignments on which Hunt reportedly worked.

Hunt's other manuscript has gone to Arlington House, the politically-conservative company which has ties to columnist William F. Buckley Jr., a longtime personal friend of Hunt's and guardian of Hunt's children.

Buckley is chairman of the board and a major stockholder of Starr Broadcasting Co., which owns Arlington House.

Hunt's previous writings, whether or not they have

any direct bearing on Watergate, have sent reporters scurrying to the Library of Congress and second-hand book stores.

Since the disclosure that Hunt was also involved in breaking into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, many journalists have been poring over his earlier books to see if he may have disguised any of his real-life capers in the fiction he has been churning out since the 1940s.

Hunt may or may not be intending to write about the Watergate, his lawyer says. There is a surfeit of Watergate books already under contract or making the rounds of publishers.

New York attorney Henry Rothblatt, who represented four of the original five Watergate burglars for a \$125,000 fee, has co-authored a thinly disguised novel with an editor of Argosy magazine, Milton Machlin.

The title is "Hightower," a pseudonym for "Watergate." According to the agent, John Starr, there are high hopes for a sale to the movies.

Other non-fiction Watergate books in the works are a "quickie" for Bantam by Pulitzer Prize-winner Clark Mollenhoff and a more time-consuming analysis for Quadrangle by Frank Mankiewicz, who helped run Sen. George McGovern's campaign.

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