

C.I.A. AID TO HUNT IN RAIDS HINTED

Rep. Nedzi Says Conspirator
Told of Using Equipment
Beyond Ellsberg Case

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WASHINGTON, June 28—
E. Howard Hunt Jr., a convicted Watergate conspirator, was quoted today as saying he had used disguises and other equipment supplied him by the Central Intelligence Agency for projects other than breaking into the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

Hunt's testimony came during day-long questioning by a House Armed Services subcommittee investigating C.I.A. involvement in the Watergate affair. It was his first appearance before any of the Senate and House committees investigating the Watergate scandal.

While the session was closed, some of the highlights of his testimony were discussed later by Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, who is chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. Nedzi quoted Mr. Hunt as saying that he had used some of the equipment—a wig, identification papers, and other items—obtained from the C.I.A. in the summer of 1971 for several projects in addition to the break-in of the California psychiatrist's office.

Asked if these activities were illegal, Mr. Nedzi replied: "They were to my mind."

However, he declined to say what the activities were.

It had been disclosed previously — during grand jury questioning and court procedures—that Hunt had participated in breaking into the psychiatrist's office in September, 1971, was the first indication of C.I.A. equipment being used by Hunt in other break-ins.

Hunt was involved in a White House project investigating Dr. Ellsberg's connection with the disclosure of the secret Pentagon papers describing United States involvement in Southeast Asia.

Top C.I.A. officials had disclosed earlier that the agency had given Hunt various equipment and disguises to conduct what Hunt told them was a

"one-time interview" on a security matter.

Mr. Nedzi said that Hunt's testimony seemed to indicate that Charles W. Colson, a former White House aide, might have been involved in some of the activities described by Hunt today.

Mr. Colson has maintained that he was not involved in the Watergate events.

Close Relationship Alleged

Mr. Nedzi said that Hunt told the subcommittee that he had been hired for the White House job by Mr. Colson and that he had dealt "very closely" with him with respect to the various projects the so-called "plumbers" were involved in.

"The plumbers were members of the team set up to investigate various leaks on security matters, including the Pentagon papers.

Asked who had opened the door to the C.I.A. for Hunt, Mr. Nedzi said: "He did mention he had spoken with Mr. Colson with respect to possible C.I.A. assistance. It was not clear as to how Mr. Colson would handle it. It was left at that."

Mr. Colson told a Senate panel last week that he had mentioned to John D. Ehrlichman, a top White House aide at the time, that Hunt was anxious to establish "liaison" with the agency to interview Col. Lucien Conein, a former agency operative in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Colson insisted, however, that he did not call the C.I.A. on behalf of Hunt.

Asked if Mr. Colson knew what Hunt wanted the disguise and equipment for, Mr. Nedzi replied: "Yes." He would not elaborate.

Cables on Diem Noted

Mr. Nedzi also quoted Hunt as reaffirming an earlier statement that he had been ordered by Mr. Colson to fabricate cables designed to show that the John F. Kennedy Administration was deeply involved in overthrowing the Diem regime in South Vietnam in 1963.

Mr. Colson has denied issuing such an order but has said that Hunt may have misunderstood something that he told him.

Mr. Nedzi said that Hunt, in his testimony today, gave a third version of how he gained access to the C.I.A. that summer.

Gen. Robert Cushman, former deputy director of the C.I.A. and now commandant of the Marine Corps, told Congressional panels last month that Mr. Ehrlichman had called him when he was with the agency and asked it to cooperate with Hunt, who had just been hired as a White House security expert.

Mr. Ehrlichman later denied he had called General Cushman and further denied any involvement in gaining agency access for Hunt.