

CIA Aided Hunt After Order to Stop

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The Central intelligence Agency opened its unclassified files at least twice to White House aide E. Howard Hunt several months after the agency supposedly discontinued help to him in August, 1971.

Intelligence officials have testified in a closed House subcommittee hearing that Hunt—later convicted in the Watergate case—went to CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., and was allowed to examine files even after then-Director Richard M. Helms had ordered that all aid to the former White House consultant was to end.

Also, the officials have testified, unclassified documents on a 1954 foreign security leak were delivered to Hunt's White house office in October, 1971—two months after he had been declared persona non grata in the CIA.

The CIA accommodations to Hunt apparently were made by lower echelon employes without the knowledge of Helms or former CIA deputy Director Gen. Robert Cushman.

The decision by Helms and Cush-

man to cut off all assistance to Hunt "was not disseminated throughout the agency," according to Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), chairman of the House Armed Forces Subcommittee on Intelligence Operations.

The disclosure that Hunt was involved with the CIA for a longer period of time than previously had been admitted by the agency came as two congressional committees announced they will summon four former White House advisers to explain attempts to involve the agency in covering up the Watergate scandal.

Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Intelligence Operations, said he had sent letters inviting John D. Ehrlichman, H. R. (Bob) Halde- man, John W. Dean III and David Young to appear "as expeditiously as possible."

Haldeman and Ehrlichman were top Presidential advisers before resigning earlier this month. Dean was President Nixon's counsel before he was fired, and Young was a staff member

of the National Security Council before he resigned.

McClellan said the four would be asked to answer charges of "grossly improper, if not criminal" attempts to get the CIA to assist key conspirators in the Watergate case.

Nedzi said he, too, planned to call the same White House aides to testify, although he said he was "not optimistic" about obtaining substantial new information.

Past and present administrators of the CIA have testified that the White House aides exerted severe pressure on the CIA to block an FBI investigation into the funding of the Watergate burglary, and also solicited CIA money to pay bail costs and salaries of the Watergate defendants.

Helms and former CIA Deputy Director Lt. Gen. Vernon Walters testified they refused those requests. But they admitted the CIA did provide disguises and surveillance equipment used in the September, 1971, break-in of the office of Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

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They also admitted "reluctant" CIA participation in compiling a psychological profile on Ellsberg.

Nedzi said yesterday that two additional instances of CIA assistance to Hunt occurred after Helms ordered Cushman in August, 1971, to put an end to the agency's involvement with him.

Nevertheless, according to Nedzi, CIA Director James R. Schlesinger has testified that in October, 1971, Hunt arranged with an unidentified CIA officer to obtain unclassified documents relating to a 1954 security breach case in which some sensitive government information was "leaked" in France.

Nedzi said Schlesinger testified that the documents were delivered by the CIA to Hunt's office in the White House. Details of the French case were not discussed in the hearing, although Nedzi said the documents were unimportant.

Schlesinger could not be reached.

Nedzi said that sometime

before Hunt reportedly made a December, 1971, trip to Miami to prepare a surveillance network in advance of the 1972 Democratic National Convention, the former CIA agent again gained access to agency files.

Nedzi said CIA director-designate, William E. Colby testified that Hunt examined resumes of retired CIA agents, which are maintained in the agency's placement office. The resumes, Colby testified, are kept for reference by CIA personnel officials when prospective employers seek information about specific ex-agents.

Nedzi said Hunt was "going into the files," apparently in search of information about one or more persons who used to work for the agency.

Hunt, according to the report by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, has told a federal grand jury here that he obtained from the CIA the name of a locksmith whom he planned to recruit for a spying mission against the Democrats in Miami Beach.

Hunt told the grand jury, according to Anderson, that he and convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy went to Miami Beach,

but that the locksmith later turned down an offer to participate in the scheme.

Nedzi said the significance of the two CIA accommodations to Hunt lies not in the content of the information obtained, but in their timing.

"My concern was that the agency (officials) had experiences with Hunt that soured them on him, but afterward . . . they were assisting him," Nedzi said.

He said he is convinced that "it was a case of the left hand not knowing what the right was doing," and that Helms and Cushman were unaware of the continuing involvement.

Nedzi said in response to a question that his subcommittee's review of the CIA's budget has been "extremely cursory" to date, but that he

planned to look more closely at the agency's expenditures.

He conceded that a congressional oversight committee might pinpoint CIA expenditure of funds for domestic covert intelligence-gathering operations and put a stop to it. The 1947 National Securities Act, which created the CIA, specifies that the agency shall have no internal security function.

Nedzi said some of the six members of his intelligence subcommittee have been busy with other work and with defense appropriations legislation and have not devoted much time to intelligence appropriations or operations. He said the subcommittee "will very definitely become more active." Meanwhile, Sen. Stuart

Symington (D-Mo.), acting chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that memoranda written by Walters verifies his conclusion that the White House tried to blame the CIA for Watergate. The memoranda describe White House meetings involving Helms and Walters in June, 1972.

Symington, who said Thursday he found it hard to believe President Nixon was unaware of the cover-up attempt, said yesterday, "It is even more difficult for me to visualize that the President knew nothing about it."

Nedzi said he, too, found it "difficult to conceive" that Mr. Nixon was ignorant of the approaches to CIA, but he said, "anything's possible."