

Nationwide Search Made

'Bug' Case Figure Faces Quiz

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E. Howard Hunt Jr., the ex-White House consultant sought for questioning about an attempt to bug the Democratic National Committee headquarters, has agreed to meet with federal authorities investigating the case, government sources said yesterday.

Accordingly, the sources reported, the FBI has called off a nationwide search for Hunt. He disappeared from public sight shortly after his name was linked to the suspects ar-

rested inside the Watergate offices of the Democratic Committee on June 17.

The FBI's search ended when federal authorities received assurances from a Washington lawyer, William C. Bittman, that Hunt would meet with them, sources said.

"If the government wants him to appear then he will," Bittman said early last night. "They have not indicated to me that they want him."

"In effect," said one person close to the investigation, "counsel (Bittman) said he would produce Mr. Hunt and

he is being taken at his word."

Bittman, a member of the prestigious law firm of Hogan and Hartson, declined to comment on how he had been retained by Hunt. The attorney is a former federal prosecutor who successfully argued the government cases against ex-Teamster president James R. Hoffa and Senate aide Robert G. (Bobby) Baker.

Bittman also declined to comment on his client's whereabouts, although government sources said the attorney had

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indicated to federal authorities that Hunt is in the United States.

Hunt, who retired in 1970 from the Central Intelligence Agency after 21 years there, was hired as a \$100-a-day White House consultant on the recommendation of President Nixon's special counsel, Charles W. Colson.

Hunt was first linked to the alleged plot to bug Democratic headquarters when his name beside the notations "W. H." and "W. House" was found in the address books of two of the five suspects arrested inside the party's offices.

In addition, an uncanceled check from Hunt to a Rockville country club was found among the suspects' belongings.

Sources close to the federal investigation of the bugging attempt yesterday denied a published report that the break-in had been traced by authorities to a right-wing group of anti-Castro Cubans.

According to one person familiar with the case, investigators "haven't come up with any rational explanation of this thing yet."

Of the five suspects arrested in the case, three are Cuban exiles who live in Miami; one is an American soldier of fortune who fought with Castro and later fled Cuba; and the fifth is a former CIA official who was employed as the security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

In another development yesterday, the five suspects' first attorney, Douglas Caddy, ap-

peared again before the federal grand jury investigating the break-in at Democratic headquarters.

Caddy left the grand jury room at least 13 times yesterday to confer with four lawyers who waited outside the jury room—where proceedings are secret and a witness cannot be represented by counsel. Each time Caddy huddled in the corridor with his attorneys and returned to the jury room.

Following an unusual court proceeding last week, a federal judge ordered Caddy who had claimed a lawyer-client immunity, to testify before the grand jury about his relationship with Hunt.

During Caddy's appearance in court, it was revealed that he told the grand jury of "intimations" that Robert R. Mullen Co. — the Washington public relations firm where he and Hunt once shared an office—did work for the CIA.

Robert F. Bennett, president of the Mullen firm, said this week that Caddy was probably referring to work the firm did in the 1960s for Radio Free Cuba, widely reported to be funded by the CIA.

Bennett also confirmed that he too appeared before the grand jury.

Meanwhile, it was reported yesterday that John W. Dean II, counsel to President Nixon, is serving as an informal staff coordinator of White House reaction to the bugging incident.

Ken W. Clawson, deputy director of communications at the White House, said he was unsure if the report of Dean's role was accurate, but added: "It sounds logical."

"He is the counsel and any legal things involving the White House, he would be the coordinator," said Clawson. "He is the President's lawyer."