

103A

BUGGING 1-11

2ND ADD 1ST LD BUGGING WASHN XXX TO GUILTY.

"THE COURT AND THE PUBLIC HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE JUST ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL LAW," SIRICA TOLD A HUSHED COURTROOM AS HUNT LISTENED INTENTLY.

"THIS COURT BELIEVES THAT MUST ENCOMPASS BOTH THE SUBSTANCE OF JUSTICE AND ALSO THE APPEARANCE OF JUSTICE. GIVEN THE NATURE OF THIS CASE, THE COURT IS COMPELLED TO CONCLUDE THAT BOTH THE SUBSTANCE AND APPEARANCE OF JUSTICE REQUIRE THAT THE PLEA BE REFUSED."

MORE

UPI 01-11 09:58 AES

BY JANE DENISON

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FORMER WHITE HOUSE CONSULTANT E. HOWARD HUNT JR. PLEADED GUILTY TODAY TO ALL CHARGES AGAINST HIM IN THE WATERGATE BUGGING TRIAL. THE JUDGE ACCEPTED THE PLEA AFTER REJECTING HUNT'S EFFORT TO PLEAD GUILTY TO ONLY THREE COUNTS.

MORE

UPI 01-11 10:20 AES

AFTER ACCEPTING THE SECOND PLEA, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE JOHN J. SIRICA ORDERED HUNT HELD UNDER \$100,000 BOND UNTIL A PRE-SENTENCING INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED.

MORE

UPI 01-11 10:21 AES

HUNT HAD INITIALLY TRIED TO PLEAD GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO BREAK INTO DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, ACTUALLY BREAKING INTO THE WATERGATE BUILDING OFFICE, AND TO LISTENING VIA BUGGING DEVICES TO

TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS OF SOME DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS.

AFTER SIRICA REFUSED TO ACCEPT THAT PLEA -- OMITTING REFERENCE TO THREE OTHER CHARGES RELATING TO ACTUALLY PLACING BUGGING DEVICES IN THE OFFICES -- HUNT PLEADED GUILTY TO ALL SIX COUNTS OF THE INDICTMENT AGAINST HIM.

MORE

UPI 01-11 10:26 AES

HUNT'S ATTORNEY, WILLIAM O. BITTMAN, PLEADED WITH SIRICA TO LOWER THE \$100,000 BOND, SAYING "I DON'T BELIEVE HE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET" THE AMOUNT. HE ASKED THAT IT BE LOWERED TO \$25,000 OR, AT MOST, \$50,000.

SIRICA SAID, "I DENY YOUR REQUEST AND YOU CAN TAKE IT TO THE COURT OF APPEALS IF YOU WANT."

MORE

114A

BUGGING 1-11

4TH ADD 2ND LD BUGGING WASHINGTON 109A XXX WANT."

THE POSSIBILITY THE CASE WOULD BE EXPANDED BEYOND THE SIMPLE CRIMINAL COUNTS INVOLVED IN THE BREAK-IN LAST JUNE 17 APPARENTLY VANISHED WHEN HUNT'S ATTORNEY, WITH AGREEMENT OF THE PROSECUTOR, SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED AGAINST SIRICA'S SUGGESTION THAT FOR HUNT TO HAVE HIS GUILTY PLEAS ACCEPTED, HE EXPLAIN "HOW YOU GOT INTO THIS CONSPIRACY."

HUNT DID ADMIT UNDER SIRICA'S QUESTIONING THAT HE WAS GUILTY OF EACH COUNT AND COMMITTED THE VIOLATIONS "KNOWINGLY, AND INTENTIONALLY AND UNLAWFULLY."

BITTMAN ARGUED AGAINST HUNT ANSWERING THE QUESTION OF HOW HE BECAME INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY ON GROUNDS THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REOPEN A GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF THE POLITICAL ESPIONAGE.

BITTMAN SAID HUNT'S ANSWERS MIGHT PREJUDICE HIS POSITION IN THAT

INVESTIGATION AND THAT HIS ANSWERS MIGHT PREJUDICE THE JUDGE'S OWN VIEW REGARDING THE OTHER SIX DEFENDANTS STILL STANDING TRIAL.

HUNT WAS LED OUT OF THE COURTROOM BY A MARSHAL 45 MINUTES AFTER THE TRIAL RESUMED, PRESUMABLY TO BE LOCKED UP UNTIL THE \$100,000 BOND WAS POSTED.

MORE

115A

BUGGING 1-11

5TH ADD 2ND LD BUGGING WASHINGTON 109A XXX POSTED.

SIRICA INDICATED HE WAS SETTING THE BOND UNUSUALLY HIGH BECAUSE HUNT FLED GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS SHORTLY AFTER THE BREAK-IN, HAD FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND WAS NOT EMPLOYED. BITTMAN ARGUED THAT HUNT WAS EMPLOYED AS A WRITER AND HAD WRITTEN 46 BOOKS.

BITTMAN, TALKING TO REPORTERS DURING A BRIEF RECESS FOLLOWING THE DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT, SAID HE WAS "TOTALLY UNPREPARED" FOR SIRICA'S INSISTENCE THAT HUNT POST THE \$100,000 SURETY BOND. SUCH A BOND REQUIRES POSTING AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT IN COLLATERAL.

HUNT APPEARED GRAY AND HAGGARD BUT COMPOSED AS HE WAS LED AWAY BY A MARSHAL.

JUDGE SIRICA, IN FIRST REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE SURPRISE GUILTY PLEA MADE BY HUNT WEDNESDAY TO THREE CHARGES AGAINST HIM, OBSERVED THAT THE GOVERNMENT APPEARED TO HAVE "AN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG CASE" AGAINST HUNT.

MORE

UPI 01-11 10:42 AES

116A

BUGGING 1-11

6TH ADD 2ND LD BUGGING WASHINGTON 109A X X X AGAINST HUNT.

HUNT AND ANOTHER FORMER WHITE HOUSE AIDE, G. GORDON LIDDY, ARE ALLEGED BY THE PROSECUTION TO BE CENTRAL FIGURES IN AN ALLEGED ELABORATE SCHEME BY SUPPORTERS AND WORKERS FOR PRESIDENT NIXON TO INFILTRATE THE CAMPS OF DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS AND POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES LAST YEAR.

IN DENYING THE HUNT OFFER TO PLEAD GUILTY TO HALF THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM, SIRICA SAID: "THE COURT AND THE PUBLIC HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE JUST ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL LAW. THIS COURT BELIEVES THAT MUST ENCOMPASS BOTH THE SUBSTANCE OF JUSTICE AND ALSO THE APPEARANCE OF JUSTICE. GIVEN THE NATURE OF THIS CASE, THE COURT IS COMPELLED TO CONCLUDE THAT BOTH THE SUBSTANCE AND APPEARANCE OF JUSTICE REQUIRE THAT THE PLEA BY REFUSED."

HUNT'S LAWYER THEN IMMEDIATELY PLEADED HIS CLIENT GUILTY TO THE SECOND THREE CHARGES AS WELL AS THE FIRST THREE AND IT WAS THIS PLEA THAT SIRICA ACCEPTED. HUNT ALREADY HAS BEEN TOLD HE WILL BE CALLED BEFORE THE RECONVENED GRAND JURY INVESTIGATING THE WATERGATE CASE.

HUNT, A FORMER CIA AGENT, COULD RECEIVE A PRISON TERM OF UP TO 25 YEARS AND FINES OF UP TO \$20,000.

PICKUP 11TH PGH 109A: BITTMAN SAID

UPI 01-11 10:47 AES