

WH 7/1/73

# Hunt Billed White House for Day Of Break-In at Ellsberg's Doctor

The Washington Star-News

WASHINGTON, May 1 — E. Howard Hunt Jr., convicted Watergate spy, billed the White House for a consultant's fee for the day of the break-in at the Beverly Hills, Calif., office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

A source close to the Watergate case said the United States attorneys here have time and pay records for Hunt showing that he was paid by the White House for four hours work on Sept. 4, 1971. That was the day of the burglary at the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding, who was treating Dr. Ellsberg, now on trial for disclosing the Pentagon Papers.

Watergate prosecutors also have airline tickets showing Hunt and a co-conspirator, G. Gordon Liddy, used assumed names of "Hamilton" and "Larimer" when they "flew back from the West Coast the next day.

The airline tickets show Hunt and Liddy were in Los Angeles at that time.

Hunt's time-and-pay records show that he submitted bills to the White House for work on Sept. 2, 3 and 4 in 1971.

At that time, Hunt and Liddy were both among the so-called "plumbers in the White House assigned to trace the leak. Liddy was a full-time employe, Hunt a \$100-a-day consultant.

Dr. Ellsberg's trial in Los Angeles was rocked last Friday by the disclosure the Justice Department had information that Hunt and Liddy broke into a psychiatrist's office to obtain Dr. Ellsberg's treatment records.

United States District Judge Matthew Byrne Jr. demanded that the Government find out whether this did indeed happen and, if so, for whom Hunt and Liddy were working.

The Hunt payments were routinely approved by a former White House political aide, Charles E. Colson, who resigned this year to become a Washington lawyer.

Mr. Colson, who had hired Hunt for the White House job earlier in 1971, signed all of his consultant billings as a normal bookkeeping procedure.

Beverly Hills Police Chief

B. L. Cork said the break-in at Dr. Fielding's office was reported on Sept. 4, 1971, and apparently had happened the previous night.

Airline tickets show Hunt and Liddy, posing as "Hamilton" and "Larimer" took a flight back from Los Angeles to New York on Sept. 4.

At one stage of the Watergate trial, the prosecution had planned to call an American Airlines stewardess on that flight to testify that Hunt and Liddy were traveling together under aliases then. However, the prosecution changed its plans after Hunt pleaded guilty.

The stewardess, who asked that her name not be used, told The Star-News that Hunt struck up a conversation with her and later sent her a book as a gift. She said Hunt wrote the accompanying letter on White House stationery, signing it as "Hamilton."

The White House time-and-pay records show Hunt turned in a slip for four hours of work on Thursday, Sept. 2; another four hours on the day of the break-in, and two hours on Sept. 4 when he was leaving Los Angeles.

Presumably, at his hourly consulting rate, he would have been paid only \$125.

Chief Cork said Beverly Hills police files show two break-ins reported Sept. 4 for Dr. Fielding's office and a physician's office in the same building.

"There was nothing taken out of either one," he said.

Chief Cork said the police later picked up a suspect in a purse theft and, when they showed him the two reports, the suspect said he broke in searching for narcotics. No charges were filed, however, and the suspect was prosecuted for parole violation on the purse theft, the police said.

"It was possible that there were two separate break-ins that weekend," he said. He noted the physician's office is on the first floor and Dr. Fielding's is on the second floor of the business building.

Dr. Fielding could not be reached for comment.