

Young, Not Hunt, Sought Papers, Pentagon Says

Post 5/11/73

Associated Press

A Pentagon spokesman reversed himself yesterday and substituted one former White House aide for another as the man who unsuccessfully sought access at the Defense Department to secret Pentagon Papers in the fall of 1971.

It was David Young, a resigned member of the National Security Council staff at the White House, and not convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, who personally wanted a look at the documents, spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim said.

While Young was turned down at the Pentagon, he arranged for Hunt to comb through cables at the State Department. Hunt has said in a grand jury testimony that in 1971 he prepared two phony cables indicating

President John F. Kennedy was linked to the assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963.

Friedheim said another Watergate conspirator, G. Gordon Liddy, also made a personal visit to Pentagon counsel J. Fred Buzhardt, and was also turned down in his request for a peek at secret Vietnam-to-Washington communications.

Blaming the error on incomplete memories of Pentagon officials, Friedheim said, "We are not perfect."

Friedheim said the White House aides were turned down because of a standing Defense Department policy requiring that any request for information for government investigations come from the Justice Department.

Correction

The Washington Post incorrectly reported yesterday that Central Intelligence Agency Director James R. Schlesinger gave former FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III an account of its dealings with E. Howard Hunt in 1972. The account was not transmitted by Schlesinger, who had not yet joined the CIA, but by other officials of the Agency. The Washington Post regrets the error.

5/11/73