

New Watergate Dimension?

By THOMAS B. ROSS
Chicago Sun-Times Service

A fake passport, produced by the Central Intelligence Agency for former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt Jr., was being carried by one of the suspects at the time of the Watergate break-in, investigators have disclosed.

The passport, made out in the name of "Edward Hamilton" — the same initials as Hunt's — reportedly was found on Frank Sturgis when he was arrested at Democratic National Committee headquarters in June.

The disclosure of the passport yesterday added a dimension to the case: The possibility that current CIA employes were involved in political espionage. The CIA has repeatedly assured Congress that its fake documents are kept under tight control.

Hunt and several of the others under indictment have acknowledged they once worked for the CIA, but have asserted they were no longer in its employ at the time of the Watergate incident.

Hunt's wife was killed in the United Air Lines crash in Chicago on Friday. Her purse was found to contain more than \$10,000 in cash. Police reported that one of the bills bore the written inscription: "Good Luck. FS" — the same initials as Sturgis'.

Sturgis has never been identified as a direct employe of the CIA, but was known to have had extensive agency

contacts in Miami. An ex-Marine, he fought with Fidel Castro in Cuba and was rewarded with the gambling casino concession in Havana after Castro won.

But the two men had an early falling out, and Sturgis went over to the Cuban exile community in Miami. He was once arrested on a boat off British Honduras in what he described as an attempted "commando raid" on Cuba.

A soldier of fortune, he is believed to have used several pseudonyms besides that of Edward Hamilton. He was born Frank Fiorini in Norfolk, Va., but adopted the name of his stepfather.

Hunt was hired as a White House consultant by Charles W. Colson, special counsel to President Nixon. He openly declares in his Who's Who listing that he has operated under a number of pseudonyms — Robert Dietrich, John Baxter and Gordon Davis.

The federal indictment charges that Hunt was present on the night of the Watergate break-in, but left before the police arrived and apprehended the five persons inside the Democratic headquarters. He was linked to the case through a \$25,000 cash fund, a campaign contribution to the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Investigators said the fake passport and the possible CIA role in the break-in would probably be explored at the trial scheduled to begin next month.

The CIA is prohibited by law from conducting any operations within the United States and, of course, is proscribed

from taking part in domestic politics. It is known, however, to have been involved with the Cuban community and with other anti-Communist exile groups in U.S. cities.

The investigators said they did not have a plausible theory as to why Mrs. Hunt was carrying so much cash.