

Hunt Testifies To More Uses Of CIA Aids

6/19/73

By Susanna McBee

Washington Post Staff Writer

Convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt told a House subcommittee yesterday that he used Central Intelligence Agency equipment in other covert activities besides the break-in of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee that listened to Hunt for more than eight hours, termed the other activities "illegal" in the sense that they involved the CIA in domestic affairs. He did not spell out what the activities were, but he said they did not include wiretaps or additional burglaries.

Hunt, who was convicted in the June 17, 1972, Watergate break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters, has been accused of burglarizing the Beverly Hills office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding, in September, 1971, as a member of the White House "plumbers," a team set up to stop security leaks. Partly because of the disclosure of the Fielding burglary, the government's Pentagon Papers case against Ellsberg was thrown out of court.

In the closed hearing yesterday, Nedzi said Hunt described how, as a White House security consultant, he came to the CIA in July, 1971, and received such equipment as disguises, phony papers to establish a new identity, a tape recorder and a camera.

Gen. Robert H. Cushman, now the Marine commandant and then deputy director of the CIA, has told several congressional committees that CIA assistance to Hunt stopped in late August, 1971. But the CIA apparently never got its equipment back except for the camera.

Cushman said that he okayed CIA aid for Hunt af-

HUNT, From A1

ter receiving a phone call July 7, 1971, from then White House aide John D. Ehrlichman. However, Ehrlichman has testified that he doesn't have any recollection of calling Cushman that day.

Nedzi said Hunt's version of how he got an appointment with Cushman differs from both Cushman's and Ehrlichman's versions. "It could be that he doesn't know (how he got the appointment)," Nedzi said. "He says he doesn't know."

Nedzi said Hunt, who had been a CIA employee for 20 years before working at the White House, reiterated previous testimony that he was hired by former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson and "had been dealing very closely with him with respect to the so-called projects the plumbers were involved in."

Hunt "did mention he had spoken with Mr. Colson with respect to possible CIA assistance" in 1971, Nedzi continued. "It was not clear how Mr. Colson would handle it."

Hunt wanted from the CIA such things as "disguises and pocket litter," the phony identification cards and papers, the congressman said.

Asked if Hunt contended that Colson knew what he wanted to use the disguises for, Nedzi replied, "Yes." The congressman indicated that Hunt did not originally get the equipment for the purpose of breaking into

Fielding's office, but he did not elaborate.

Nedzi was asked whether he agrees with Colson's assertion that he did not order any of the projects the plumbers undertook. "I can't say that is the impression we've gotten so far," Nedzi replied.

Nedzi said Hunt also repeated his charge that Col-

son told him to fake two State Department cables linking the Kennedy administration with the assassination of South Vietnam President Ngo Dinh Diem in September, 1963. The phony cables were passed to a reporter for Life magazine, but were not published. Colson has denied the allegation.