

Air crash probers to let Skolnick talk

Chgo. today

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LEGAL RESEARCHER Sherman Skolnick is finally going to get a chance to formally present information to the National Transportation Safety Board that he says will show a United Air Lines plane that crashed near Midway Airport on Dec. 3—killing 45 persons—was sabotaged.

The board agreed to seek information from Skolnick after receiving a request to do so from E. O. Fennell, United's senior vice president.

Skolnick had filed a suit seeking a court order to be heard after the NTSB refused to let him testify at hearings early this year into the cause of the crash.

Another United spokesman said Skolnick should be heard, "altho there is absolutely no factual basis for his statements," because of the publicity accorded his charges.

SKOLNICK CLAIMS that the plane was sabotaged in a plot to kill Mrs. E. Howard Hunt, wife of one of the convicted Watergate conspirators. She was one of the victims.

There has been speculation about the \$10,000 in \$100 bills that was found among her

possessions.

NTSB members said they had not yet decided whether Skolnick would be asked to testify or to provide the information in written form.

An official report on the crash will not be ready for at least a month.

And Fennell said United was reluctant to respond to Skolnick because the board has not yet issued its formal report.

"THEREFORE, United requests that the board grant Skolnick the opportunity to present to it any evidence which might be of aid in determining the cause of this accident, or, in the alternative, require Skolnick to present any such evidence," Fennell said.

Skolnick's suit protesting the decision not to allow him to testify alleged that the plane was sabotaged to kill four persons, including Mrs. Hunt.

He charged the four had information relating to either the Watergate incident or an alleged bribe connected with the dropping of a government antitrust suit against a southwest pipeline company.

*15 by 528, from
his records. Hunt
announced
via J.F.*