

White House Aide Missing From Job

By Jon Katz

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The house is completely hidden from the country road, the long, winding black asphalt driveway partially choked off by thick shrubbery. There are two signs in front: "Witches Island" and "Beware of Dog."

There was no dog visible at 11120 River Rd. in Potomac yesterday, but there was no Howard Everette Hunt Jr. either.

The name of the 53-year-old White House consultant, a former CIA employee and a prolific author, was found in the address books of two of the five men arrested Saturday for allegedly attempting to bug the Democratic National Headquarters at 2600 Virginia Ave., N.W.

Also found by police among the personal effects of suspects was a stamped, unmailed, unsealed, envelope containing Hunt's \$6 personal check made out to the Lakewood Country Club in Rockville.

(Thomas Yann, general manager of the club, confirmed yesterday that Hunt holds a nonresident membership. Yann said he was puzzled by the amount of the check, since Hunt's monthly dues are \$6.36, and suggested the check may date from prior to September, 1970, when dues were \$6.)

The FBI reportedly questioned Hunt yesterday. He has not been available to reporters since his name appeared Tuesday morning in connection with the bugging incident.

Hunt was suspended yesterday as a writer for the public relations firm of Robert R. Mullen & Co., 1700 Pennsylva-

nia Ave. NW. His employer, firm president Robert F. Bennett, said the suspension was for failing to appear at work yesterday and Tuesday.

Bennett described Hunt as a conservative Republican.

Hunt has worked as a consultant to White House Special Counsel Charles W. Colson on declassification of the Pentagon Papers and most recently (March 29) on narcotics intelligence.

He has written more than 40 detective, sex, science fiction novels and short stories under several pseudonyms including Robert Dietrich, John Baxter and Gordon Davis.

He worked for the Central Intelligence Agency from 1949 through 1970 in a number of locations, including Paris, Vienna, and Mexico City, and Montevideo, Uruguay.

He is listed in Who's Who as a Defense Department Counsel from 1957-60, and a State Department employee from 1968 to an unspecified time.

Hunt served in the U.S. Naval Reserve and the U.S. Army Air Corps, receiving a Naval Commendation Ribbon, a presidential citation and the China Star.

Born in Hamburg, N.Y., on Oct. 9, 1918, he received an A.B. degree from Brown University in Providence, R.I., in 1940.

A retired Brown University history professor, I. J. Kapstein, recalled Hunt yesterday as one of his students in the late 1930s.

Kapstein said in a telephone interview from Providence that Hunt was an "exceptionally good writing student,"

who always wrote in a "neat style, unpretentious and straightforward. I considered him a writer with an unusual talent."

Kapstein said that he visited Hunt in Potomac last January and was told by Hunt "that he was going to work for the Republican National Committee to write some pieces. I knew his politics were always staunchly Republican."

According to a classmate who described Hunt as a "romantic-acting figure," Hunt wrote several letters to the Brown University Alumni Monthly in recent years, deploring the lack of patriotism in youth.

One of the letters, published in 1969 following the refusal of some graduating students to listen to a commencement speech by Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's chief foreign affairs adviser, said Brown was designed to produce men "of usefulness and reputation, not hirsute know-nothings as seems increasingly the case."

He called the Kissinger incident an outrage, and subsequently canceled his subscription to the magazine following demonstrations by black students the following year.

Neighbors near his isolated residence in Potomac said they knew nothing about Hunt, nor did businessmen in the center of the suburban town, 1¼ miles from his home.

Political conservatism is re-

flected in some of his novels, which range widely from lurid sexual scenes to behing-the-scenes Washington political life including a number on Latin-America.

Alfred Friendly, former managing editor of The Washington Post, said yesterday that he hired Hunt to work in Paris in 1948 (Friendly at that time was an assistant of Averell Harriman).

He described Hunt as being at that time "slight, blondish, sharp features." Friendly said he hired Hunt on the strength of a short story Hunt had reportedly had published in the New Yorker Magazine.

The former managing editor said he believes Hunt left to join the CIA, and that Friendly saw him "once, years later in the lobby of the (National) Press Building when he blandly denied his identity."