

LF 02/11/ 72 HW Driving to Baltimore this a.m. + heard a CBS net radio newscast that makes more sense than the Post's yesterday's reporting I mailed you this a.m., that Hunt went to Chicago Friday afternoon and returned to DC not Sunday but Saturday, after having made arrangements for the body, etc. This, of course, bears on the long silence in any announcement or comment. One of the side benefits was time to prepare a story if one were needed...an interesting conjecture: to whom is the money returned? To Hunt, of course. But suppose the serials trace to the Creep money? How can he explain using that money for this alleged "private" business deal? If he uses that money, how explain omission of that particular money from the indictment? There are many questions like these that may or may not be relevant but come to mind and I hope are not entirely ignored. HW

12/10/72-2

WTOP radio updated story after CBS net 11 a.m. EST news, but the local interferences continued. The name I missed is certainly Harold and Powell or something sounding like it through the interference. The bag was found by an unnamed Chicago patrolman. Powell seems to be the former ambassador to Uruguay. He saw Hunt at his home before the trip, on which as best I could make it out, his wife was a companion or he a survivor, and Hunt said it was a business trip. Were it not for those \$100 bills, it could be postulated that she went vice Hunt because he is restricted in his travels by bail conditions.

To LF, 3, HW, 12/10/72

While I was doing what permitted it, I began to monitor WTOP radio again, beginning 1:30 p.m., including net news 2 p.m. At 2:20, when the opening did not register on me, there was another Hunt update followed by a remote from WBBM on the official inquiry, Faa's, etc. After saying the purse was found in the rubble Saturday night, "Police said there is no way to connect (the money and the purse) with Mrs. Hunt. The money was neatly packaged..." This backtrack seems impossible to explain. The inference of the "neatly packaged", as I took it, is in original bank wrappers. This is my conjecture. I can't think of another, unless she had ~~it~~ rewrapped. I think it also said new bills, but not certain. ...With Mrs. H a passenger and casualty, her handbag recovered, and all this \$\$\$ in it, why raise any questions about connecting the money with her? Or why should police say there is no way. Short of court and the rules of evidence, it would seem impossible to have a better connection.

LF 12/10/72 p. 4 from HW

Spent something more than an hour putting storm windows in on the jalousied porch you may remember. Except on trips up and down the cellar steps, monitored WTOP Radio until nighttime antenna switching, which eliminates signal here in most spots. There was another update and 3:40 p.m. It gives a Hunt Chicago accountant, unnamed, as source for Mrs. H's being there for a business deal and for his being part of it, not necessarily partner but as Hunt representative, I'd interpret. There may have been more I missed traipsing steps. The story has been given minimal attention, no headlining any time I heard periodic headlining ("these are the stories you are about to hear" or "these are the major stories of the coming hour" and "half-hour"). Yet from some source there has been a constant update, less likely on weekends without someone considering it a major story or one worthy of continuous attention or, possibly, an enterprising weekend worker who has been holding back and feeding it out little-by-little to make to seem fresh to subscribers. There is the possibility these things were uncredited from WBBM. Could also have been wire service(s) or combination. Putting it all together, it is stranger still that her death or her presence on plane went unreported for so long when so many knew of her schedule and the events. As I remember, besides family and one might suppose friends, there is this accountant, the cop who found the bills, the official who ultimately announced, I'd think Hunt's lawyer (he had to get permission to leave jurisdiction, I think), those who knew of request or granting permission, DJ people, inc. FBI agents, possibly some in airlines, travel agent if used, etc. And what kind of business does one begin at the very end of the working week? For something claimed to be innocent and played that way by media, this seems more and more mysterious as details come out. Others who knew, the ambassador, perhaps wife, associates. All these people silent for more than a whole day? If no others knew, this many seems impossible. HW

LF 12/10/72, p. 5, HW

Unti; 8 p.m., 7 p.m. your time, I was unable to monitor because of the work I had to do. At a few minutes after 8, while collating what I'd typed. I tuned WBBM in, for the CBS net news then originating in Washington. For the first time I heard a net item on it, on the 5-minute newscast. According to it these added facts: the certified public accountant in Chicago is Harold Carlstadt (phon). He said the business deal was with him, but he refused to elaborate. Hunt was back in Washington, after identifying the body but refused comment or to be interviewed. So, his comings and goings were not all that secret, either. I guess Carlstadt is an unusual kind of CPA, taking cash rather than checks in business deals set for the weekend. The police are holding the cash and other things for the federal investigation. By the way, unless the feds allege a law-enforcement purpose, they can't withhold info on the bills once mention has been made of them and their source, her purse, according to my understanding of the Freedom of Information law and controlling precedents. That would be cute, to allege that the money Mrs. Hunt had when killed was GOP's, and she was using it for a private business deal. Know any paper willing to invoke the law? You don't have to be as patient as the NYTimes was, and they seem not to have invoked FOI law. There is a non-binding Administrative Conference of the US report saying a reasonable time to wait is 1-2 weeks and after that other laws can be used, in addition. The law requires "promptness". And the investigation seems to be by the National Transportation Safety Board, whose law-enforcement purposes, if any, have nothing to do with the Watergate affair. WBBM identified this as the investigating federal body 8:20 our time. (BBM did not then duplicate or add to net's news.) This seems to me to be a dream FOI situation, but I can't touch it now, can't trust Bud to, and don't know who will. There must be a series of precedents on the phoney invocation of the "investigatory files" provision or it will be used as a means of blanket suppression. (I have one precedent case before the Court of Appeals in DC now for many months, more than a half year, I guess, since the hearing on it.)

No further news on WBBM next 45 minutes. Must now get to other things. Will mail this in a.m. in Baltimore to speed, hopefully by a day. I'd appreciate what local coverage you can supply. Present plans are to be away only tomorrow of this week, but subject to change. HW