

Mrs. ^{NEW} Hunt's mystery

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By Phillip J. O'Connor

The wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, apparently planned to use \$10,000 in \$100 bills found in her purse after she was killed in a jetliner crash here last Dec. 8 to obtain a Holiday Inn motel franchise, a Flossmoor man said Friday.

Harold C. Carlstead, a certified public accountant with personal investments in motels, said Mrs. Hunt had asked for his aid in applying for the franchise.

Such a franchise would have fit in well with providing vis-

ible means of support for Mrs. Hunt and her four children while she received secret payments during the time her husband was in prison, federal investigators said.

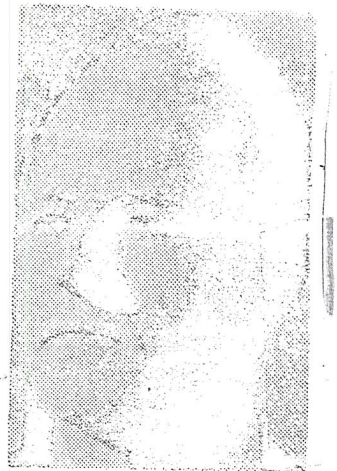
MRS. HUNT had been quoted as saying shortly before the jetliner crash near Midway Airport that a lawyer for the Nixon campaign committee was paying the couple to remain silent about others in the Watergate case.

She added that the lawyer had urged them to invest some money to create some "possible source of income" as

a cover for their high standard of living.

Hunt, 54, a former employe of the Central Intelligence Agency and author of spy novels, was employed as a White House consultant before he became involved in the Watergate affair.

After being granted immunity from further prosecution, Hunt has given several hours of testimony to a federal grand jury in Washington. Federal Judge John J. Sirica said Hunt's co-operation will be a factor when he sentences him in June.



E. Howard Hunt

money

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9

'for motel franchise'

THE FEDERAL Reserve System was asked by federal investigators to trace the money carried by Mrs. Hunt. Sixty-three of the \$100 bills have a serial number beginning with the letter "B," which means they were originally distributed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

However, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York does not keep a record of the serial numbers on money delivered to New York City banks. Other federal reserve banks do.

One of those arrested inside

Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate building in Washington last June 17, Miami real estate agent Bernard L. Barker, had 53 bills of \$100 denomination in his possession at the time.

Another Watergate defendant, James W. McCord Jr., reportedly told a federal grand jury that Mrs. Hunt was a courier for "silence" money paid to the seven defendants.

McCord reportedly told the jury he received \$3,000 a month from her and that she

was paying four Miami men, including Barker, \$1,000 a month each to remain silent.

MCCORD also reportedly told the grand jury that the silence money came from the Committee for the Re-election of the President under an arrangement worked out by Kenneth W. Parkinson, the committee's attorney.

However, Parkinson called the charge "totally and completely false."

Carlstead said that Mrs. Hunt, 52, of Potomac, Md., and his wife were first cousins.

"I didn't know she was car-

rying the money with her to Chicago," said Carlstead. "At the time we discussed the Holiday Inn franchise, the fee for a franchise was \$10,000. It has since risen to \$15,000, but she probably didn't know that."

Carlstead said the youngest of Hunt's four children, David, 9, is being cared for by a sister in her early 20s, a brother about 20 and a housekeeper. Another sister is away at college, Carlstead added.

"How much love can a housekeeper give the boy?" Carlstead asked. "The boy lost his mother in the crash and now his father is in jail."