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Searching for A Free Lawyer

By Maxine Cheshire

Bernard L. Barker and the other three Cuban-Americans involved in Watergate owe their lawyer \$40,000, which they don't know how they are going to pay, and are now looking for someone to represent them free.

Maria-Elena Moffett, Barker's daughter, said last week that her father is reluctant to rely on a court-appointed attorney.

"He can't afford to take the chance on getting someone incompetent or inexperienced," she says.

Mrs. Moffett is hoping that some "qualified" lawyer will be willing and financially able to undertake Barker's appeal for a new trial without requiring a fee. She is looking only for a lawyer for her father. The others, she says, will make their own arrangements.

Hunt's Hassles

Convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt, already in a maze of legal troubles, now has a minor dispute pending with Allstate Insurance. He claimed \$5,034 for personal effects of his wife's that were destroyed when she was killed in a plane crash in Chicago. The company offered a \$3,000 settlement, attorneys said last week, but it was turned down and a lawsuit is threatened.

Meanwhile, Hunt is in seclusion at his Potomac estate, Witches Island, writing, not one, but two novels, simultaneously. He is protecting his privacy with a huge black afghan dog that comes snarling down the driveway when unwelcome visitors appear.

Potpourri

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger dined at La Bagatelle last Tuesday night with a tall, attractive blonde. But it wasn't Nancy Maginnes. His companion was White House press secretary Ron Ziegler's aide, Diane Sawyer, recently chosen one of Washington's sexiest women in Washingtonian magazine . . .

Before she started her memoirs, Martha Mitchell insisted on finishing the decorating of her New York apartment. It is on the "grand scale," according to a recent visitor. There are two living rooms "large enough to land a helicopter in" and a specially made bed, "twice the size of a king-size" . . . One of Rep. Robert F. Drinan's Massachusetts constituents has obviously seen "The Exorcist." Drinan, a Democrat and the only Catholic priest in the Congress, got a telegram last week that read: "If you won't impeach, exorcise him."