

9/26/73 NYT

HUNT THEORIZES ON DOUBLE AGENT

He Says Lookout Exposed Plot—Hypothesis Doubted by Senators and Staff

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—E. Howard Hunt Jr., who has written more than 40 spy novels, added a new twist to the Watergate plot today, proposing a theory that the burglars were exposed by a double agent.

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., Republican of Connecticut, found holes in Hunt's theory, however, and most members of the Senate Watergate committee and its staff rejected the hypothesis.

The supposed informer, according to the scenario that Hunt related to the committee this morning, was Alfred Baldwin 3d, who sat in a motel room across the street from the Watergate building and served as a lookout on the night that the Democratic National headquarters there were broken into.

Mr. Baldwin, who was granted immunity from prosecution in return for his cooperation with investigators, denied today having worked for anyone but President Nixon's re-election committee.

Data 'Provided Beforehand'

Hunt was prodded into presenting his theory at the hearings by Senator Edward J. Gurney, Republican of Florida. Lapsing at times into the jargon that fills his novels, Hunt, who has been in jail since last January, said that it had occurred to him for many months that the burglars might have been "trapped by information having been provided beforehand to local law enforcement authorities by a member of our unit."

The logical culprit, according to his theory, was Mr. Baldwin, who, Hunt said, "had rather intimate ties to the Democratic party in Connecticut."

Mr. Baldwin, Hunt confided, is "the nephew of a judge, a Democratic judge," and "at one point in time represented himself as being a nephew of John Bailey, who had been previously or at one time was chairman of the Democratic party of Connecticut."

As additional evidence to support his contention, Hunt contended that Mr. Baldwin "had a girlfriend who worked at Democratic National Headquarters."

Hunt said it would not have been surprising to him if Mr. Baldwin had tipped off the police to the break-in and burglary that night on June, 17 1972.

Hunt said that he could not understand "the lingering presence in the general Watergate area of the D.C. Police Department's so-called 'Mod Squad.'"

Furthermore, Hunt contended Mr. Baldwin should have warned the burglars, who were on the sixth floor, over his walkie-talkie when he noticed strange goings on in the Watergate building. Hunt continued:

"Here we have a darkened building, let us say, at around 2 o'clock in the morning. Abruptly, lights begin going on the eighth floor; men must be able to be seen running through the eighth floor.

"Those lights go out, there is a repetition on the seventh floor, and on the sixth floor the same procedure begins. At this point, a rather casual inquiry comes over the walkie-talkie from Mr. Baldwin to the effect: Are any of your men wearing hippie clothes?"

'All in Business Suits'

"The answer which Mr. [G. Gordon] Liddy gave him was, no, they are all in business suits. And, approximately at this time, the arrests began taking place on the sixth floor, which were the premises of the Democratic national headquarters."

Senator Gurney did not challenge Hunt's hypothesis. But when it came his turn to question Hunt, Senator Weicker, the Connecticut Republican, briefed Hunt on Mr. Baldwin's background.

"The only relative that Mr. Baldwin has who is or has been a judge is [the] former Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court in Connecticut who would be Raymond Baldwin, who was also the Republican Governor from Connecticut and who is generally looked upon as Mr. Republican in the state of Connecticut," Senator Weicker said.

Mr. Weicker acknowledged that Mr. Baldwin had claimed to be a relative of Mr. Bailey, the former Connecticut and National Democratic Chairman, at the time he was seeking to infiltrate the Democratic headquarters in early 1972.

The senator then asked Hunt, "If you were going to case the Democratic National Committee headquarters, it would certainly be far more appropriate to identify yourself with John Bailey rather than [Republican Chairmen] Robert Dole or Clark MacGregor?"

"Yes, Senator," Hunt responded rather meekly.

The question of why the police had been near the Watergate building that night was answered early in the hearings. Two members of the "Mod Squad," so called because they wore scruffy civilian clothes, told the committee that they had been working overtime for many weeks because of a number of robberies and mugging in the Watergate complex area.