

Hunt, Granted Immunity, Talks

2/29/73
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Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. testified before a federal grand jury for four hours yesterday amid indications that he is cooperating by answering questions asked by government attorneys.

Hunt at first invoked the Fifth Amendment in answer to six questions. He was then taken before Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, who granted him immunity from further prosecution and sent him back to the grand jury.

It could not be learned if Hunt's testimony pointed to the involvement of others in the Watergate affair or other alleged acts of political espionage and sabotage against the Democrats in the 1972 presidential campaign.

Hunt also testified for about 80 minutes Tuesday afternoon but principal Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert declined then, as he did yesterday, to give any idea of what Hunt was telling the grand jury. Hunt is to resume testifying before the grand jury today.

A source close to Hunt said yesterday that the 55-year-old former CIA agent may be willing to provide information about political spying beyond the Watergate. To date the prosecution has taken the position that what spying and disruption it has heard of does not violate any federal law.

Hunt has been implicated in spying operations directed against the two leading contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination last year, Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) and Sen. George McGovern (D-S.Dak.).

In addition, Hunt was involved in gathering informa-

tion on the personal life of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). FBI files also show that Hunt met secretly with ITT lobbyist Dita Beard last March at the height of the controversy over the government's settlement of an anti-trust case with the giant conglomerate.

Prior to granting immunity to Hunt yesterday, Sirica asked Silbert to have the court stenographer read the questions Hunt refused to answer on the grounds that he might incriminate himself.

A reading of the grand jury minutes showed that Silbert had asked Hunt if anyone else had prior knowledge of the June 17 break-in at the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters besides the seven Watergate defendants; to whom logs of wiretapped conversations were given; where Hunt got \$8,500 that he gave to a lawyer only hours after the police arrested five men inside the Watergate; whether Hunt had received more than the \$8,500 and whether he had employed anyone for political espionage in addition to Thomas Gregory, a college student Hunt paid to spy on Muskie and McGovern headquarters.

Sirica also announced yesterday that he "sees no need to go forward" with a private conference with convicted Watergate defendant James W. McCord Jr. since McCord will be called by the grand jury and is giving information to Senate select committee investigating the Watergate affair.

Hunt, whose final sentence has been deferred by Sirica to see if Hunt cooperates by giving information, faces a maximum possible sentence of 35 years in jail and a \$40,000 fine. G. Gordon Liddy, the only one

of the seven Watergate defendants to receive a final sentence, must serve a minimum of six years and eight months in jail and pay a fine of \$40,-

to Grand Jury

000.

Hunt, who was taken to court from D.C. jail in handcuffs, was apparently returned there last night to the quarters he shares with the five other Watergate conspirators who are in jail. A jail official said he had "no instructions" to find new quarters for Hunt.