



Merry-Go-Round

by Jack Anderson

WASHINGTON - The Watergate Woes, which bedevil President Nixon, have spread to other world leaders.

In Russia, for instance, party chairman Leonid Brezhnev had to overcome powerful opposition before he could establish friendly relations with Nixon. Brezhnev, therefore, must show his rivals in the Kremlin that his new friendship with Nixon will benefit Russia. As Watergate erodes Nixon's authority, it also reduces Brezhnev's chances to make favorable diplomatic and economic deals. The impeachment or resignation of Nixon, according to intelligence reports, could be on the overthrow of Brezhnev.

In China, Premier Chou En-lai also encountered bitter opposition when he befriended Nixon. The weakening of Nixon, therefore, also weakens Chou.

In Japan, Premier Tanaka is beset with problems that have plunged his popularity to an all-time low. He needs helpful decisions out of Washington, as the two allies become competitors for world trade and oil resources. Nixon's unpopularity therefore, increases Tanaka's unpopularity.

In England, Prime Minister Heath is plagued with rising prices and sinking political fortunes. His administration has also been sullied by a sex scandal. In France, President Pompidou is politically beleaguered and physically in poor health. Both leaders are associated in the public mind with Nixon.

Ad this has become a liability around the world.

CIA Embarrassed: No one is more embarrassed over the Watergate fiasco than the

professionals at the Central Intelligence Agency. Two of the waterbuggers, E. Howard Hunt and James McCord, are CIA veterans. Their bungling could give the profession a bad name.

For example, Hunt disguised himself in a CIA wig when he flew out to Denver to suborn the testimony of ITP's Dita Beard. But Hunt put on the wig crooked. A professional disguises himself to look as inconspicuous as possible. Hunt, in his preposterous ill-fitting red wig, attracted attention to himself.

McCord was supposed to be an expert in the art of electronic eavesdropping - in the worlds of the trade, "a good wire man." But he used the equipment and methods of a bumbling novice.

The listening device police recovered inside the Watergate was bulky and obsolete. Such bugs are known as "throwaway" equipment, which are sometimes planted by seedy practitioners of the bug-sweeping trade. Then they pretend to discover the devices later for the benefit of naive clients.

Professionals could have

bugged Democratic party headquarters with sophisticated devices that could never have been detected. McCord's bug was so obsolete that Washington policemen, who discovered it, thought it was an explosive device and called the bomb squad instead of the wiretap experts.

Inside the CIA, meanwhile, the professionals are mortified.