

# Now a Household Word... Hunt Scraps Pen Names

Bul - 8/12/73

THE BERLIN ENDING. By  
E. Howard Hunt. Putnam.  
310 pp. \$6.95.

By WAYNE ROBINSON

Like actors who hide behind characters, convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt hides behind pseudonyms.

In 32 years, Hunt has turned out 45 novels — mostly cloak-and-dagger stories which give fanciful flight to his 20 years experience with the CIA — writing under such names as David St. John, John Baxter, Gordon D. Davis, Robert Dietrich. And SOMETIMES Howard Hunt.

But now, since he has been in the public limelight as one of the White House "plumbers", the publishers for his 46th book emblazon the name E. Howard Hunt in bold red letters as large as the title on the dustjacket. A non-reticent blurb assures the eye that the



E. Howard Hunt  
... no more pseudonyms

author indeed is "one of the Watergate Seven."

Now He's a Name

If before this his books ("East of Farewell," "Bimini Run," "Limit of Darkness," etc & etc.) have slipped by in obscurity, this is not likely to happen to "The Berlin Ending." Not because it is any better or worse than the other 45, but now the author is a Name.

The book trade is tooling up to rush some 40 previous St. John-Baxter-Davis-Dietrich Hunt titles in paperback to the racks — and you know what the cover will look like.

No work of fiction can match the story that has been unfolding on Capitol Hill since June 17, 1972. Will Hunt write his version in yet another book? Probably. "The Berlin Ending" predates the Watergate beginning. It is a routine melodrama of its kind

which could be routinely dismissed if not for the headline notoriety of its author.

Profile of Himself?

Hunt has also confessed to being part of the bungled burglary of the Ellsberg psychiatric files — in search of a "psychiatric profile" on Ellsberg.

Readers can play the game of looking for a psychiatric profile of Hunt himself in his own novels.

Here the ex-CIA agent is named Neal Thorpe. Thorpe-Hunt's problem is to protect the life of a beautiful West German girl being pursued by Soviet agents who are assigned to silence her because she has discovered her stepfather, the West German foreign minister, is not the Communist-fighter the world thinks he is. The story opens in Washington and quickly moves to Mexico, Lisbon, Stockholm and West Berlin. What Thorpe-Hunt finds himself fighting are "agents of influence — high government officials capable of altering the attitudes of an entire country."

Elsewhere, the former C.I.A. agent thinks the agency has "grown old and cautious. Prim. Reliant on technology rather than human beings."

Curiously, Thorpe-Hunt is a loser in the "Berlin Ending." On the run as a murder suspect, he fails his personal mission. At the close, Thorpe-Hunt is damning the CIA for its lack of the right help at the right time.

Does this, indeed, foreshadow Watergate?

Wayne Robinson is editor of The Bulletin's TV Time — long familiar with Hunt-type derring do.