

Whatever It Was It's Been Shelved

By Maxine Cheshire

It may be only a coincidence, but E. Howard Hunt has an unpublished manuscript about a double agent in Moscow who was caught bugging the Kremlin.

The book, titled "Moscow Calling," was sold last year to New American Library but shelved at Hunt's request.

The plot closely parallels the details which are beginning to leak out on "Operation Odessa," in which Hunt may have been involved as a member of the White House "plumbers" unit.

"Operation Odessa" is an aspect of the Watergate investigation about which little is known because it involves "national security."

The sketchy information printed so far indicates that it may have involved a double agent who helped the United States eavesdrop on top Russian leaders.

No one seems to know exactly when Hunt wrote his fictional version of the same story. Not even his agent, Donald MacCampbell.

All MacCampbell knows is that he recently had instructions from Hunt to put his one copy of the manuscript away for safekeeping. The reason Hunt gave was that it is "dated."

"The Host With the . . ."

Navy Secretary John Warner bought enough expensive party paraphernalia here last week to go into competition with Washington's reigning host, Iranian Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi.

As a formal ribbon-cutting gesture, Warner went by the Mayflower Hotel to open a sale of furnishings and fittings salvaged from such oceangoing luxury liners as the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth.

While he was there, he went on an \$800 shopping spree and bought two heavy porcelain caviar crocks (\$42.50 each), a silver wine cooler (\$132.50), one grog keg (\$295) and other assorted table props for party-giving.

Potpourri

Competition is getting fierce in the women's magazine field. When Ladies Home Journal heard that Family Circle was paying Barbara Howar \$12,000 to profile Cornelia Wallace, they assigned the same piece to someone who was happy to take the edge off an old family nemesis: Lynda Johnson Robb . . . Rose Kennedy will be the godmother when society columnist Charles Van Rensselaer converts to Catholicism in Palm Beach . . . The envelope which contained Kathleen Kennedy's wedding invitation to her grandmother was a gem for some collector of autographs or family memorabilia. It was addressed to "Ms. Rose Kennedy."

Florida's only woman state senator, Lori Wilson, will be married in a sunrise ceremony at Cocoa Beach on Dec. 31 to Al Neuharth, president of the Gannett newspaper chain. They sent out a Thanksgiving Day announcement of the way they intend to begin 1974 with a headline which read: "Happy New Years."