

Publisher Pledges Hunt 6-Figure Sum for Memoirs

By ERIC FACE

E. Howard Hunt Jr., the Watergate burglar and former C.I.A. operative, has begun writing his memoirs, his publisher said yesterday, and he had been guaranteed "a substantial six figure" sum against his eventual royalties.

"He's going to tell his story as fully and honestly and as revealingly as he knows how, and we hope for the best," said Edward Chase, a vice president of G.P. Putnam's sons, the New York publishing concern, and of its paperback subsidiary, Berkley Publishing Corporation. The book is to be at least 100,000 words long and is expected to come out in the latter part of this year.

Mr. Hunt, who has already written dozens of action novels, thus swells the ranks of Watergate and Nixon Administration figures who are writing books. Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew is writing a political novel. Former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson is writing a study of the American political system. Mrs. John N. Mitchell, the wife of another former Attorney General, is writing her memoirs.

McCord Writing Book

James W. McCord Jr., another Watergate burglar, is also writing a book that is "virtually finished," his lawyer has said. John W. Dean 3d, the former White House aide, is said

to have been negotiating a book contract for himself. And there have been unconfirmed reports that Jeb Stuart Magruder, once President Nixon's deputy campaign director, has contracted to write an autobiographical book dealing largely with Watergate.

Just what light all these authors may shed on Watergate is not known, but Mr. Chase said that Mr. Hunt's autobiography, which is as yet untitled, would describe his life "right through Watergate" — after which he was imprisoned for 10 months for his role in the burglary.

Mr. Hunt is now free while his appeal is pending. Mr. Chase said, "He's obviously in

good fettle, alert and in good shape, not a demoralized man in any way; he looks like any other country gentleman."

Mr. Chase said that Mr. Hunt had a Japanese flag, a guerrilla's pistol, an old Spanish racket and other mementoes hanging on the walls of his home in Maryland.

"He's working night and day," Mr. Chase said, and the manuscript is expected to "address itself to everyone of the facets of Watergate, Ellsberg, I.T.T., the whole works."

The hardcover edition is to bear the imprint Putnam-Berkley. The paperback rights have been sold to Popular Library for another "substantial six-figure" sum, Mr. Chase said.