

'Bug' Suspect Tried To Get Miami Plans

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By Carl Bernstein
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Bernard L. Barker, one of the suspects in the alleged plot to bug the offices of the Democratic National Committee, attempted last year to obtain blueprints of the Miami Beach convention hall and its air conditioning system, according to a Miami architect.

"The time is important because at that time only the Democratic Convention was scheduled" at the convention hall, said the architect, Leonard Glasser.

Glasser said that Barker, whom he has known for more than a year, also frequently mentioned that he had a "fantastic connection in Washington . . . He said his name was Howard Hunt."

The name of Howard E. Hunt Jr., a former Central Intelligence Agency employee, author and former White House consultant—was found in phone books belonging to Barker and another of the five

men arrested in the Democratic National Committee's Watergate offices early on the morning of June 17.

Hunt, who was hired at the White House on the recommendation of President Nixon's special counsel—Charles W. Colson—has reportedly been questioned by the FBI about the incident. Hunt has avoided newsmen and has been suspended from his regular job as a writer for a Washington public relations firm, Robert R. Mullen & Co.

Glasser, the architect who heads a Miami consulting firm, said that Barker asked him about eight months ago to use his professional influence to obtain blueprints of the Miami Beach convention hall.

"He came to me and said he had a client in Puerto Rico who wanted to build a convention hall," Glasser said. "It

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was a logical story. We were in the same building and threw business each other's way. . . .

"But the city doesn't release things without authorization," Glasser continued, "and they didn't have any of the plans around. Then I said, 'Bernie, what do you need the plans for? The Building code in Puerto Rico is different, the site is idfferent, everything's different . . .'"

"Then he said, 'Could you get the air conditioning plans?' This was unreal because what the hell would anybody want that for," Glasser asserted in a telephone interview yesterday. "Then it occurred to me, when I read about the (Democratic National Committee) break-in, that this would be the best way to bug the place."

Glasser, described by Miami sources as a well-known business and professional figure in Maimi Beach, said that Barker never mentioned Hunt's name in connection with obtaining plans of the convention hall—to be the scene of both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions this summer.

"Barker said this guy (Hunt)

was a big man in the CIA," and that he could help the architect obtain business in Central America. "Then he mentioned the guy had left CIA and said he has his own public relations firm . . . Then at one time he mentioned that the fellow was in the White House."

In a bond hearing on Friday Judge James A. Belson ordered Barker held in D.C. Jail, pending assurance that \$89,000 transferred from a Mexico City bank in April to Barker's Miami bank was indeed for a real estate deal—as asserted by Barker's attorney.

Some of the money withdrawn by Barker was found on the suspects when they were arrested, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert.

In addition to Barker, the other men arrested in the incident are James W. McCord an ex-CIA employee who—after his arrest—was fired from his jobs as security coordinator for both the Committee for the Re-election of the President and the Republican National Committee; Frank Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini, an American soldier of fortune with extensive ties to anti-Castro Cuban exiles; Eu-

genio R. Martinez, who works as a salesman for Barker's Miami real estate firm; and Virgilio R. Gonzales, a Miami locksmith.

Meanwhile, it was learned yesterday that a federal grand jury is investigating the incident and that McCord's wife was subpoenaed on Friday to appear before it. She was told to bring "all of the records" of the security consulting firm owned by her husband and where she works as a secretary, according to McCord's attorney.