

E. Howard Hunt to take stand

F Post 10/28/74 See separate file, under Hunt

WASHINGTON (AP) — E. Howard Hunt, Jr., retired CIA agent and convicted Watergate burglar, takes the stand Monday as only the second witness to be heard in the 20 days the Watergate cover-up trial has been in session.

Like the other prosecution witnesses to follow, Hunt has been called to back up the testimony of John W. Dean III, who finished a marathon eight-day tour Friday as the leadoff witness.

Hunt, author of a soon-to-be-released book, "Undercover: Memoirs of a Secret Agent," will be asked about his attempts to obtain funds from the White House after he and six other men were arrested in the Watergate burglary.

Hunt denies testimony from Dean that Hunt threatened to expose some "seamy

things" he did for the White House before the June 17, 1972, break-in if tens of thousands of dollars in cash were not paid to him and the other defendants.

Hunt, who while still with the CIA helped plan the aborted Bay of Pigs invasion against Cuba in the early 1960s, pleaded guilty on Jan. 11, 1973, in the original break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters.

Sentenced on various charges to 2½ to 8 years, and fined \$10,000, he is now free pending appeal after serving 10 months, five days of the prison term.

Before the 56-year-old Hunt begins his testimony, U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica must decide if he will be called as a court witness, with neither the prosecution nor defense vouching for his

credibility.

If Hunt testifies as a court witness, the prosecutors would be permitted to ask him leading questions from the start.

That would permit the prosecutors, not Hunt, to lay the background for his role in the cover-up.

In requesting that Sirica call Hunt, Watergate prosecutors said that during Hunt's testimony before grand juries, "it became apparent to the government that Mr. Hunt was not being entirely candid ..."

They said Hunt, even though given the promise that he would not be prosecuted further for Watergate crimes, "cooperated with the investigation only grudgingly and we believe, incompletely."