

NY Times  
JAN 3 1975  
Of the C.I.A. and Goldwater's Campaign

To the Editor:  
I am sure Mr. Hersh is on to a  
good story. I am sure he will  
find out what he is looking for.  
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Mr. Hunt, it seems, told the Senators  
that during the summer of 1964, his  
boss, C. Ross Barnes, was instructed  
by President Johnson to acquire "any  
and all information" on Senator Barry  
Goldwater's Presidential campaign.  
That information, again, according to  
Hunt, was to be passed to me. Since  
the implications of all this are fairly  
vivid, and since Mr. Barnes and  
President Johnson are both dead, I  
owe it to them as well as to myself  
to tell what I know.

I was concerned with Asia, particu-  
larly Vietnam, during the summer of  
1964 (and for all-too many years to  
follow). I can recall several occasions  
during the Presidential campaign  
when, among the scores of pieces of  
mail that crossed my desk each day,  
there were press releases from the  
Republican National Committee pro-  
viding advance texts on Goldwater's  
speeches.

Since there was a running debate  
between President Johnson and candi-  
date Goldwater on what the United  
States should do in Vietnam, I paid  
mild attention to Goldwater's Vietnam  
("Why not Victory?") views. The  
White House press office was flooded  
with such handouts, and it did not  
cross my mind that the C.I.A., at the  
direction of the President of the United  
States, may have mounted a major  
operation to assure that micrographed

copies of Senator Goldwater's  
policy oratory would be available  
to the press before or after it appeared  
in the early editions of the afternoon  
newspapers.

To tie up any further loose ends,  
I never heard of Mr. Hunt until he  
was caught with his bugs down at  
the Watergate; I was never told by  
Mr. Johnson or anyone else of the  
C.I.A. "assignment," and I never saw  
or heard of anything more lascivious  
in connection with Senator Gold-  
water's Presidential campaign than an  
occasional press release.

So much for the juicy fruits of the  
hot operation Mr. Hunt implies he  
conducted and Mr. Hersh apparently  
believes was mounted against Senator  
Goldwater in 1964.

Neither Mr. Hunt's story nor my  
account above is new, of course.  
Hunt's story was in The Washington  
Post (page 1) on Dec. 18, 1973; what  
I have repeated above was in The  
Post (page 1) on the following day.  
Perhaps Mr. Hersh felt Hunt's story  
was worth rehashing more than a year  
later. But if so, he should have also  
contacted me, or even better, done  
his homework.

CHESTER L. COOPER  
Washington, Jan. 2, 1975

The writer served in the White House  
from 1963 to 1966.

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