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'Her Cash' Was For A Motel'

CHICAGO — (UPI) — The wife of convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt was carrying \$10,000 to Chicago to buy a motel franchise when she was killed in a plane crash, according to accountant Harold C. Carlstead, whose wife was a first cousin to Mrs. Hunt.

Carlstead said he had discussed the Holiday Inn franchise with her.

The \$10,000 found in Mrs. Hunt's purse in the wreckage of a United Air Lines jetliner which crashed near Chicago's Midway Airport last December, killing 45 persons, had triggered speculation the money may be linked to the Watergate scandal.

Carlstead, a motel investor and certified public accountant, said the price of the franchise when he talked with Mrs. Hunt by telephone was \$10,000 but that, by the time she left for Chicago, it had gone up to \$15,000.

He said a theory that Mrs. Hunt wanted the franchise as "cover" for secret income she received during her husband's imprisonment was "ridiculous."

In some reports, Mrs. Hunt had been quoted as saying a lawyer for the Committee to Re-elect the President paid the Hunts to keep silent about others involved.

James W. McCord, another Watergate defendant, reportedly told a federal grand jury that Mrs. Hunt was a courier for "silence" money paid by the re-election committee to the seven Watergate defendants.