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Hunt Moved to Arlington Jail After Fight

By Paul W. Valentine
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Imprisoned Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt was transferred to Arlington County jail Monday following a late-night altercation Sunday with a D.C. jail cellmate whom Hunt accused of trying to steal his personal effects.

Hunt, who may testify today before the Senate Watergate committee, woke up late Sunday night to find a newly acquired cellmate "rifling through his personal papers and taking his clothes," according to Hunt's attorney, William O. Bittman.

The cellmate had been moved into the cell by jail officials "in the middle of the night," Bittman said. "He was attempting to steal Mr. Hunt's personal property. There was an altercation." No one was seriously injured, he said.

Bittman said he requested Hunt's transfer the next day, and Hunt was moved immediately to Arlington.

A spokeswoman for Anderson Magruder, D.C. jail superintendent, confirmed that there was a brief altercation. No disciplinary action was taken against the cellmate, she said. Hunt's

belongings were returned to him immediately, according to a jail report, she said, and the incident was apparently "not large enough to take any action."

Bittman said yesterday that some items still have not been recovered. He said the cellmate "destroyed" a number of papers and attempted to steal both a notebook containing telephone numbers and some medication for Hunt's ulcers.

Bittman said the cellmate did not know Hunt personally and is not associated with Watergate. Jail officials said they do not know

what motivated the cellmate's actions.

Hunt was "very upset from that very traumatic experience" but appears to be all right now, Bittman said.

Imprisoned since pleading guilty early this year to conspiracy charges in the Watergate break-in last June 17, Hunt is scheduled to be returned to federal prison in Danbury, Conn., after completing testimony here.

G. Gordon Liddy, another convicted Watergate conspirator, was injured in a scuffle on March 26 with another D.C. jail inmate. He suffered a cut on his ear and a bruise on his nose.

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