

An American Spy by Profession

Everette Howard Hunt Jr.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24—Everette Howard Hunt Jr., today's lead-off witness at the Senate Watergate hearings left the Central Intelligence Agency in 1970 after 21 years of clandestine operations. But after the convicted Watergate conspirator left to take a more mundane public relations job, "he couldn't get over the fact," according to a friend, "that he'd been a C.I.A.

Man in the News agent. You couldn't have a conversation with him for 10 minutes without him bringing it up some way or other. This was a romanticist who couldn't get over the fact that he had been a spy."

This was a role that Hunt relished, admitting to the committee today that "I was an intelligence officer—a spy—for the government of the United States." A role that also eventually led to his being hired as a White House consultant by a fellow alumnus of Brown University, Charles W. Colson.

It was a role that teamed Hunt with G. Gordon Liddy, another Watergate culprit, to organize the break-in at the office of the psychiatrist of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg because of Ellsberg's "peculiar background," and his leaking of the Pentagon papers.

It was a role that made Hunt consider breaking into the safe of a Las Vegas newspaper publisher to get presumably damaging evidence on the then candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, Senator Edmund S. Muskie.

Led to His Conviction

And finally it was a role that contributed to Hunt's conviction for conspiring to break into the Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate Complex. In the end, it was a career, that led Hunt to proclaim today:

"I cannot escape the feeling that the country I have served for my entire life and which directed me to carry out the Watergate entry is punishing me for doing the very thing it trained and directed me to do."

Hunt was born Oct. 9, 1918, N. Y., the only son of Everette Howard Hunt and Ethel Jean Totterdale. His father, a judge, practiced law at one time in Miami Beach. While a schoolboy Hunt visited Havana. Years later, in 1960, Hunt returned to Havana on a secret visit to observe life under Fidel Castro. As a result Hunt decommended the assassination of Castro.

Hunt, known as Eduardo during his connection with the abortive Bay of Pigs in-



The New York Times/George James

E. Howard Hunt conferring with his lawyer, Sidney S. Sachs, during yesterday's Watergate committee session.

vasion of Cuba, assumed a variety of aliases, including Edward Hamilton and Ed Warren, during his spy days. His many novels about spying were also written under pseudonyms like Robert Salisbury Dietrich, Gordon Davis, John Baxter and David St. John.

Fiction and Fact

In speaking of these books, one friend said, "Howard tried to act out his novels and his hidden emotional drives. You know, he wanted to be a hero of intelligence work and a sexually irresistible male."

While he wrote of spying smattered with a variety of sexual activities, friends report that his real romantic life was not as flamboyant. According to Cuban friends, Hunt spent a night with a certain young lady in a Miami motel. But, she later complained, "All he did was to keep me up all night talking about his novels."

After Hunt was graduated from Brown in 1940, he volunteered for the Navy before the United States entered World War II. He was discharged after an accident at sea, subsequently worked as a movie scriptwriter and a war correspondent for Life magazine for the next two years.

In 1943 he joined the Office of Strategic Services, the

forerunner of the C.I.A. He was stationed in Orlando, Fla., and Southern China until the war ended. He won a Guggenheim fellowship in 1946 and spent a year in Mexico writing and learning Spanish. Three years later he joined the C.I.A. and spent time in Paris, Vienna and Latin America, where he acquired a background that was used in his later novels.

Since Hunt was indicted a year ago in connection with the Watergate break-in, he has lost his public relations job and his wife, Dorothy, died in a plane crash last December.

During six months of imprisonment, Hunt said today, he has been in solitary confinement for a time, was physically attacked and has been robbed and transferred from place to place in manacles and chains. He has been "isolated" from his four children, Lisa, Kevan, Howard and David.

Hunt, who faces a provisional sentence of 35 years, said today that he was faced with "an enormous financial burden" in defending himself in various court suits.

"Beyond all this," Hunt said, "I am crushed by the failure of my Government to protect me and my family as in the past it has always done for its clandestine agents."