

Hunt Says Duties Mostly Political

Washington

Convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr., questioned about the full range of his clandestine activities, conceded yesterday that most of his work at the White House dealt with politics, not national security.

At the same time, Hunt voiced suspicions that Alfred C. Baldwin III, another member of the Watergate bugging team who served as lookout and later testified for the government, may have been a double-agent who tipped off police.

Baldwin repeatedly has denied being a double-agent, and at yesterday's Senate hearings substantial doubt was quickly cast on several of Hunt's major allegations against his former colleague.

Hunt, who appeared drawn and frequently requested opportunities to rest during his second and final day as a witness, also testified that:

- He recommended burglarizing the home of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, after a break-in at the doctor's Beverly Hills, Calif., office failed to produce any files on Ellsberg. The proposal was eventually rejected by Hunt's White House superiors.

- He and G. Gordon Liddy, also convicted in the Watergate burglary, once warned their superiors that the political "dirty tricks" of Los Angeles lawyer Donald H. Segretti were "sophomoric" and potentially embarrassing. Their recommendation that Segretti's activities be canceled was overruled by higherups, Hunt said.

- Hunt, using a disguise and false name, interviewed a bed-ridden Dita Davis Beard, controversial lobbyist for international Tele-

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AP Wirephoto

ALFRED BALDWIN III
The double-agent theory

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phone 7, Telegraph Corp., shortly after she left Washington for Denver in March, 1972. He said Mrs. Beard, under heavy sedation, "left it up in the air" whether she had written a now-famous memo linking ITT's settlement of antitrust troubles with the government to a pledge of financial support for the Republican National Convention.

- He successfully opposed, two months later, a request from White House counselor Charles W. Colson that Hunt break into the Milwaukee apartment of Arther H. Bremer after Bremer shot Alabama Governor George C. Wallace. Colson had also authorized the Beard trip, he said.

ADMISSION

Hunt's admission that most of his White House duties were political, even though he had been hired as a national security consultant, came during questioning by Senator San J. Ervin Jr. (Dem.-N.C.), the committee chairman.

Ervin cited — and Hunt agreed — that such projects as fabrication of State De-

partment cables from the Kennedy administration years, espionage efforts against Senator Edmund S. Muskie (Dem.-Me.) and plans to break open the safe of a Las Vegas newspaper publisher were all political missions.

As part of his spying efforts on Muskie, who was once considered a leading Democratic contender for President, Hunt said he received photo-copies of internal Muskie campaign documents from an official of the U.S. office of Economic Opportunity.

The official, John Buckley, was director of the OEO's Office of Inspection but was known to Hunt only as "Fat Jack," Hunt testified. Buckley has since left federal employment.

In expressing his suspicions about Baldwin, Hunt was responding to a question by Senator Edward J. Gurney (Rep.-Fla.).

SERIES

"The series of events of that night, taken in their totality, Senator Gurney, have suggested to me for many months that we might have been, as it were, trapped by information having been provided beforehand to local law enforcement authorities by a member of our unit," Hunt said.

Pressed for his reasons for suspecting Baldwin, Hunt said "it developed subsequently that Mr. Baldwin had rather intimate ties to the Democratic party in Connecticut."

Specifically, Hunt said, "he was the nephew of a judge, a Democratic judge" and "at least at one point in time represented himself as being a nephew of John Bailey" — a former Democratic state chairman.

REPUBLICAN

Senator Lowell P. Weicker (Rep.-Conn.) said, however, that while Baldwin had an uncle, Raymond Baldwin, who had been chief justice

of the State Supreme Court as well as governor and a U.S. senator, the man is a life-long Republican.

Weicker also prodded Hunt to admit that he knew on only one occasion on which Baldwin had claimed kinship with Democratic leader Bailey: when Baldwin was gaining entry to the Democratic National Committee's Watergate offices to learn the floor plan for the subsequent burglary attempts.

"So that really doesn't form a valid basis for a double agent theory. It was specifically to gain entry to the Democratic National Committee headquarters to case the place, is that correct?" Weicker asked.

Said Hunt, "Yes, sir."

In later questioning, Ervin said: "You don't know that Mr. Baldwin was what we call a double-agent? You just draw some imagination and some surmises and some emphasis to that effect, isn't that correct?" Hunt agreed.

Today, Patrick J. Buchanan, a White House speech writer and special consultant to the President, will testify about his role in the 1972 campaign, including "political action" memoranda that he wrote in 1971 and 1972.

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