

Hunt Talks of an Unstable Ellsberg

Los Angeles

E. Howard Hunt told the Los Angeles county grand jury that White House "plumbers" developed a picture of Daniel Ellsberg as a "brilliant, unstable man . . . who had had evidently a great many sexual problems," the Los Angeles Times learned yesterday.

Hunt's testimony about reports gathered on Ellsberg's private life are contained in the 740-page transcript of the grand jury hearings that led to the indictment of four of Hunt's one-time superiors on the White House staff.

The transcripts, which were kept secret by law until yesterday, do not reveal any new startling information on the case against ex-White House aides John D. Ehrlichman, Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr., David Young and G. Gordon Liddy.

OFFICE

They were indicted September 4 for the break-in at the Beverly Hills office of Dr. Lewis J. Fielding, Ellsberg's psychiatrist, over the labor day weekend in 1971.

During his June 6 testimony here, Hunt was questioned by deputy District Attorney Richard Hecht.

At one point, Hecht asked Hunt, "What was your ultimate goal in terms of accumulating all the information you have made reference to?"

Hunt replied, "To develop, to the extent possible, a pic-

ture of Dr. Ellsberg that would be of, hopefully, significance to the administration — and I use that term broadly, in the broadest term — the Department of Justice, let us say, as to what position the White House should take with regard to prosecuting (him)."

Hecht asked, "Did some kind of picture of Dr. Ellsberg begin to emerge as a result of your work and the work of your associates on this particular project?"

Hunt replied:

"The picture that emerged, to the best of my recollection . . . was that of a brilliant, unstable man, who had in effect led a bifurcated life; he had come from academia, yet at the same time, he — he had had marital problems; he had had evidently a great many sexual problems; he consorted with females of foreign birth and extraction — which was a danger signal to anybody in the counter-espionage field."

DETAILS

Hunt continued, saying that they knew the details about Ellsberg's drug experimentation "along with Mr. Russo." Anthony Russo was a co-defendant in the Pentagon papers trial which ended May 11 with a dismissal, mainly because of factors surrounding the break-in at Fielding's office.

"Our feeling was that this was a man (Ellsberg) who

was not entirely competent, let's say, in terms of the generality of the American public," Hunt then told the grand jurors.

Earlier in his testimony, Hunt said that as part of his assignment on the plumbers unit he had thoroughly familiarized himself "with all of the available data that had been provided by government agencies on Dr. Ellsberg, his life and his travels abroad, his contacts in Vietnam, summaries of his writings, details of his divorce, of his personal conduct, of his experimentation with hallucinogenic drugs (and) of the rather bizarre life that he led in Malibu . . ."

Defense attorneys for the four men indicted have indicated that they will claim that the break-in was undertaken as a national security matter.

Hunt, who was promised immunity from prosecution of the break-in as an exchange for his testimony, testified that the mission was unsuccessful because the three Cuban Americans he recruited for the burglary could not locate Ellsberg's files.

Los Angeles Times