

# More Snooping by The Chief Plumber



— Jack Anderson

THE WHITE HOUSE ordered E. Howard Hunt, its resident snoop, to conduct a secret investigation, in May 1972, of a prominent Cuban exile physician.

The subject of the scrutiny was Dr. Enrique Huertas, whose reputation is impeccable. Yet confidential White House documents show that the undercover Hunt was turned loose on him.

The probe was directed by one of President Nixon's staff assistants, William "Mo" Marumoto, who was paid by the taxpayers to find jobs and grants for worthy Spanish-Americans.

Marumoto mentioned the investigation in a confidential May 12, 1972, memo to White House aides Charles Colson and Fred Malek. "Had Howard Hunt check out Enrique Huertas, president of the Cuban Medical Doctors in Exile," Marumoto reported cryptically. He added that Hunt had submitted a report to him.

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THIS was a busy time for Hunt, who was running around in a silly CIA wig carrying out heavy Watergate duties against newsmen, Democrats and unsympathetic Republicans. He is now serving time for his role in the Watergate

break-in and conspiracy.

Dr. Huertas was turned over to Hunt for investigation at about the time the Cuban physician came to Washington to visit with Organization of American States foreign ministers. He also dropped by the White House to see Marumoto.

As Dr. Huertas recalls the encounter, he mentioned the need for a grant to build a medical facility for Cubans in Miami. Marumoto, in turn, invited Dr. Huertas to attend several receptions being held in connection with the OAS meetings.

Dr. Huertas impulsively refused to go, saying he didn't want to attend any OAS functions until he could go as a representative of a free Cuba. In retrospect, he told my associate Les Whitten ruefully: "Marumoto must have thought, 'Who this guy, anyway?'"

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AS MARUMOTO recalls the incident, he received a call from Charles Colson's office asking about an invitation to Dr. Huertas to attend an official dinner. The Colson aide suggested that Hunt check out the physician. Marumoto called Hunt to his office, gave him the doctor's name and later received a written report. Marumoto doesn't remember what Hunt reported, except that it was summed up in one or two pages.

The discovery of the Huertas episode raises the specter of dozens of other unreported probes which may have been carried out by the White House undercover "plumbers" squad at the whim of anonymous Nixon staff assistants.

Clearly, the break-in at Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, the bugging of columnist Joe Kraft, the attempt to discredit the Kennedys, the going-over the plumbers gave my own operation and other publicized "Mission: Impossible" escapades still haven't exhausted the secrets buried in the deepest files at 1600 Pennsylvania avenue.