

Hunt's Wife And Money For 'Bugs'

Chicago

Mrs. E. Howard Hunt was on her way to Chicago to pay for bugging equipment used in the Watergate burglary when her plane crashed at the city's Midway Airport Dec. 8, 1972, the Chicago Sun - Times said yesterday.

The story quoted Adrienne Stevens, 30, ex - wife of Michael Stevens, who made and sold eavesdropping apparatus in a small plant on the North Side.

Mrs. Hunt was the wife of E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former Central Intelligence Agency official who was convicted in the Watergate break-in. She and 44 other persons were killed when a United Air Lines jetliner crashed while approaching the airport.

She was carrying \$10,000 in \$100 bills in her purse, which was found in the wreckage.

Mrs. Stevens was quoted as saying her former husband sold bugging gear to Watergate participants "under the impression they were agents of the CIA."

"He would never sell such equipment to anyone but law enforcement agencies. When the Watergate case blew up, he identified the equipment described as items he had sold them," she told the Sun-Times.

Mrs. Steven's account differed from that of former presidential aide John Dean III, who was quoted in a transcript of a White House conversation with President Nixon as saying Mrs. Hunt was carrying \$10,000 to pay one of her husband's Cuban - American co - conspirators.

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