

A Famed Lawyer Target in Scandal



WXP - FILED KING (LONGER COLUMN)

Jack Anderson

FAMED criminal lawyer Percy Foreman is now himself the target of a federal grand jury investigation.

A grand jury in Dallas is looking into charges that he received \$100,000 to obstruct justice in the Texas Watergate case. According to evidence in the case, he was supposed to "control" potential witnesses against the billionaire brothers, Bunker and Herbert Hunt.

In previous columns, we have reported how a feud over the fabulous fortune of the eccentric Texas oil tycoon, H. L. Hunt, led to a botched wiretap job back in 1970. To avoid implication in the scandal, the old man's sons, Bunker and Herbert, frantically began evasive maneuvers. They turned to Percy Foreman.

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BUNKER HUNT wanted Foreman to represent the wiretappers who were potentially the most dangerous witnesses against the Hunts, according to the evidence before the grand jury.

As an intermediary, Bunker used a wealthy friend and businessman, Ed Hudson, who kept detailed notes on his talks with both Hunt and Foreman. But one of the wiretappers, Jon Kelly, who had been hired by Hudson, made off with the notes.

These have now been turned over to the grand jury. They reveal that "Bunker Hunt called (Hudson) from London" early in January, 1972, and confirmed that Hudson was to "go ahead with Foreman on \$50,000 fee."

Describing his talks with the cele-

brated lawyer, Hudson wrote that "Foreman will direct all strategy and guarantee Kelly will not testify before grand jury."

Foreman was retained to represent not only Kelly but two more of the wiretappers, W. J. Everett and Patrick McCann. Bunker Hunt authorized another \$75,000 retainer, but Foreman agreed to take on the other two clients for \$50,000, according to the notes.

The purpose for giving Foreman the \$100,000 is stated with stark candor by Hudson. It was to "control" the potential witnesses against the Hunts and "to avoid indictment of Bunker and Herbert."

As recounted in Hudson's notes, Foreman sought to keep his clients off the witness stand where they would have been asked awkward questions about the Hunts.

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TO COVER Foreman's fee, the notes indicate, Bunker signed a \$100,000 I.O.U. to Hudson. About the same time, Hudson withdrew two \$50,000 "bearer" checks from his account. Foreman gave him two receipts for \$50,000, one on the same day the check was dated, the other, two days after the check date.

We have obtained copies of the checks and receipts, which are in the grand jury's hands.

Hunt, Foreman, Hudson and their allies have all denied wrongdoing. Foreman did not return our calls. A spokesman for Hunt said there was no effort to cover up the scandal.

Today's column is by Jack Anderson and Les Whitten