

H. L. Hunt, Son Escaped U.S. Taxes

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Nelson Bunker Hunt is a chip off the old block.

Like his famous father, the late H. L. Hunt, Bunker has made millions in oil, espouses right-wing causes and throws money away on gambling.

Now we have discovered that the two also shared a common secret: they managed to avoid paying federal income taxes for several years.

It was all perfectly legal. They simply took advantage of the tax loopholes available to the rich. Billions escape through these loopholes each year into the pockets of the privileged.

The oil depletion allowance, apparently, gave the Hunts their biggest tax break.

The taxpayers, since they pay indirect welfare to Bunker Hunt, are entitled to know how their money is spent. As a young man, he frequented Las Vegas nightclubs. A former Hunt aide told us that he would often lose huge bankrolls. Bunker also enjoyed betting on the ponies, so he bought himself a stable of thoroughbreds.

Most of his money comes from his vast, worldwide oil holdings. In 1965, he celebrated an oil find in Libya by inviting 500 friends from around the world to Claridge's hotel in London. The Woody Herman orchestra and two other bands were flown in to entertain at the tax-deductible ball.

Footnote: A spokesman for Bunker Hunt, in response to our inquiries about his taxes, admitted that "there are some years when he didn't pay." The spokesman attributed the large legal write-offs to the oil depletion allowance.

Out of Context—We believe the first duty of an investigative reporter is to get the facts straight and to repair the truth when it has been mangled.

In other words, we don't believe in taking information out of context. Yet the National News Council, which has appointed itself to oversee the press, has accused us of taking some quotations out of context in a story about the International Police Academy.

We wouldn't hesitate to publish a correction if the council's allegations were true. But it is

the council, not us, that has taken information out of context.

The council's investigation was conducted by its associate director, Ned Shnurman, who told us he spent "the best part of a day" going through some papers written by foreign police trainees giving their views on torture.

We spent several months investigating the academy, including the trainees' attitudes toward torture. It is true, as Shnurman found, that South Vietnam's Tdan Dinh Vol listed some reasons torture shouldn't be used. But he concluded that "properly used, threats and force can put out any truth in a minimum of time."

Nepal's Inspector Madhav Bickrum Rana also gave a routine denunciation of torture, but concluded that "the judicious use of threat and force to some extent...when other techniques have failed...is a practical necessity."

In the second paragraph of our story, we stressed: "After a lengthy investigation, we found no evidence that the academy actually advocates third-degree methods." We also took pains to

quote a lesson plan, selected by agency personnel, which backed up this contention.

Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) also investigated the academy. His findings are significant. "Having investigated...the International Police Academy for over 18 months," he wrote us, "I felt that your report of last summer was more than fair. My own investigators visited the academy and found essentially the same information which you did, and naturally, came to the same conclusions."

"It is puzzling to me how any group of individuals can read the reports written by the IPA graduates and not be appalled and even somewhat shocked by the contents found within some of them."

What all this boils down to is that Shnurman claims to have learned more "in the better part of a day" than we learned in months or than Abourezk's investigators learned after 18 months.

The council, which neither notified us of its hearing nor invited us to attend, owes us an apology.

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