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Missing Hunt paper is found

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prosecuting lawyers jolted the Watergate cover-up trial Monday with the disclosure that they have obtained a copy of an E. Howard Hunt Jr. memorandum they thought had been destroyed.

Prosecutor James F. Neal said a copy of the two and a half-page memorandum was obtained over the weekend from William O. Bittman, Hunt's former lawyer. Neal said that for a year and one half Bittman had denied that he ever received the memo.

The memo introduced into evidence by Neal was headed "Review and Statement of Problem." It speaks of the administration keeping its commitments in behalf of the seven defendants in the June 17, 1972, Watergate break-in.

The surprise disclosure prompted lawyers for two of the five defendants in the cover-up trial to move for a mistrial.

"I am faced with a cover-up within a cover-up," said Jacob Stein, lawyer for Kenneth W. Parkinson, the man Hunt said he intended to receive the memo.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica made no immediate response to Stein's request for a mistrial. He denied a similar request from John J. Wilson, lawyer for H.R. Haldeman, former White House staff chief and one of the five men charged with conspiring to block the investigation of the Watergate break-in.

The judge told prosecution and defense attorneys to submit legal arguments by the end of the week on whether he should summon Bittman to court to testify about what happened.