

Mr. Belmont Files
News Room
The Washington Star,
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Belmont;

Many thanks for your mailing of the 7th. It came yesterday and I skimmed it. I'd be making notes for myself anyways, so I do it in a letter in the event any of it later turns out to be of interest to you.

Too bad whoever wrote the story "Hunt for fifth run Tuesday" didn't stick to the abandoned of his second leads, "Howard Everette Hunt, Jr. the author of 42 novels under various pseudonyms, may be involved in one of the best plots his...."

Bennett was being a bit disingenuous with your man. He also had been in CIA work, also Cuban, also same period. "What the hell is going on." should be less of a question with him than with most, including reporters in particular. That Hunt's main purpose at CIA was "writing" seems inconsistent with subsequent revelations and casts doubt on Bennett's total dedication to total truth, huh?

If Bennett "was not at the firm when Hunt was hired," Mullen either got itself a new president recently or Hunt was there when he was at CIA, not the only such case.

The name "Eduardo", like that of "Lacho" were leaked too fast to the too-uncritical NYTimes, for there seem to have been none. And if Hunt was one of the directors of the Bay of Pigs debacle "and his top aide for the invasion was Bernard L. Barker", then I am even more convinced that Hunt is Frank Bender and Barker is "Bernie".

Except, I think, for confusing Dieuxeme Bureau and SDECE, Dana Bullen's 6/21 is accurate. But incomplete. Whether or not Lamia is completely dependable - and on Cuba it is at least exaggerated - it omits one of the more fascinating parts that might not be irrelevant in this Watergate Caper, whether or not it was just casual reading. DeVosJoly, who seems to have adopted the "de" for tone, goes into great detail on SDECE criminality to raise funds, including smuggling and narcotics. Remember the recent cases?

There is something I'm inclined to regard as more than a simple inconsistency in your 6/21 story:

"Hunt ^{and} became a part-time consultant to Charles W, Colson", working but 24 1/2 days in 1972 ~~xxx~~ after 6 months with a desk and phone still in Colson's office, but at the same time, "Hunt worked principally on two projects - declassification of Defense Department documents following last year's controversy over the 'Pentagon Papers' - and the gathering of intelligence materials on narcotics addiction, Clawson said." Is this, is either, reasonable? Is either the declassification or narcotics a field in which he is an expert, is he such an expert that his services would be required for such brief employment? The White House couldn't draw on authentic experts in both areas from within the executive branch? Why was he working for ~~Blawie~~ Colson is he wasn't working for Colson? "Clawson said Hunt worked ~~xxx~~ for White House staff members other than Colson on both projects. 'Colson wasn't involved'..." All this in 24 1/2 days, a desk and ~~ax~~ phoned three months after last employment, and in Colson's office? Where he didn't work?

To say that "Hunt has not worked at the White House since March" (emph added) is not to say that he has not worked for the White House or White House interests since. From another reporter I know he had a phone there after this story broke, and the fact of the desk has been published.

If Miguel A. Suarez is Miguel Augustin, the FBI has a file on him. I know the contents in part. Being a "business man" is a recent interest. Revolution preceded it, and he was trained by the U.S. Army, Fort Jackson.

So, before their "planned" interview, he was not a stranger. Delay in completing the "plan" was not a design to get to him before he prepared a story, etc.

With a search warrant, a full return is supposed to be filed with the court. Do you know if this was examined with care? The Minox film part is provocative. They are tiny cassettes. This says undeveloped. How does anyone know it was even exposed without developing?

You will recall that I told you of the similarity of names and part of the situation in the arrest of Richmond Harper and others and the testimony of the story-book type George De Mohrenschildt. I have a couple of clips from New Orleans papers giving a bit more. The Mexican town Piedras Negras also figures in the arrest case, as in the testimony, ~~that Harper~~ loans his plane to more than De Mohrenschildt, but also to one Kessler, ~~partially~~ ~~his~~ partner or late partner of Gambino's nephew, mob types both.

Kessler was arrested. One might wonder why Harper had a plane, since he is quoted as letting Kessler use it to fly to San Antonio and apparently leave there.

Seems like anything connected with Cubans is wierd. Also seems like they have moved into narcotics much heavier than Bob Woodward's Post story indicates, if you check arrest records for the east coast, esp. NYC as I recall.

Again, thanks. Appreciate anything else you see.

Sincerely,

Jarold Weisberg