

By Maxine Cheshire

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Convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt has suffered an apparent stroke that has left one of his legs partially paralyzed, according to his literary agent, Donald MacCampbell.

MacCampbell said yesterday that he learned of the illness when he visited Hunt recently at the federal prison in Danbury, Conn.

MacCampbell said Hunt told him that he believes the stroke was brought on by a fight he had in June with a cellmate in the District of Columbia jail.

Hunt's lawyer described him at the time as being "very upset" from a "very traumatic experience" and he was transported immediately to the Arlington County jail.

According to MacCampbell, Hunt has been "deteriorating rapidly — both physically and psychologically."

"He told me he won't last two years in prison," said MacCampbell. "He looks like an old man. He was wet with perspiration. He was in such bad shape that he couldn't even draft a letter. I had to do it for him."

He added, "I don't know

what kind of treatment he is getting from the prison doctors. He told me that they can't treat his ulcers because that medicine conflicts with his high-blood pressure and they can't treat his high-blood pressure because that conflicts with his ulcers."

The stroke, MacCampbell said, has left Hunt with a loss of feeling in his left leg.

The prison's chief physician, Dr. David Corner, refused to discuss Hunt's medical problems.

"It's a privileged relationship and confidential," he said. "If Mr. Hunt wants to discuss it with anyone, that's

up to him, but I regard it as a violation of medical ethics to say what he has or doesn't have."

Dr. Robert Brutsche, medical director for the Bureau of Prisons, confirmed that a medical examination of Hunt at Danbury showed that Hunt has symptoms "consistent with a stroke but not necessarily indicative of one."

After Hunt complained to doctors at Danbury of his symptoms, they diagnosed weakness in the left leg and "physical symptoms . . . that could be due to a stroke or something else."

There is "no visible incapacitation," Brutsche said.

Hunt, who is provisionally committed to Danbury while awaiting permanent sentencing, is hoping that his physical condition may be taken into consideration by Chief Judge John J. Sirica of U.S. District Court, MacCampbell said.

Until his health began to fail, MacCampbell said, Hunt had been making notes for a new book. He writes in longhand because he is not allowed to have a typewriter.

"He has set some sort of publishing record," says MacCampbell. "He will soon have 17 books on sale in bookstores at the same time."