

Daughter calls Hunt 'forgotten man'

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — "My father is a forgotten man, exiled and reviled," the daughter of imprisoned Watergate figure E. Howard Hunt Jr. says in an impassioned plea for his freedom.

"Richard Nixon has been forgiven by America. So have all the men who masterminded Watergate. Why not Howard Hunt? Is he to be crucified for the rest of his life?"

In an article in Wednesday's San Francisco Examiner, Lisa Tiffany Hunt Kyle wrote that her father has wasted away physically and undergone a slow "spiritual death" in prison.

Sentenced to 2½ to 8 years and fined \$10,000 for his role in the Watergate break-in, Hunt is scheduled for a parole hearing on Jan. 10, 1977. Also pending is a request for presidential clemency for the former White House consultant.

Hunt, a former CIA agent, pleaded guilty Jan. 11, 1973, to six counts of conspiracy, burglary, and wiretapping in the burglary. He and G. Gordon Liddy are the only men connected with Watergate and related offenses who are now in prison.

During her father's imprisonment, Mrs. Kyle said, "I have witnessed an appalling metamorphosis. His spirit is broken, his hopes for freedom gone. He has ceased to care about his plight.

"Before imprisonment my father was a born fighter who staunchly believed in democracy and justice. He was a man who loved his country so much that he followed orders for 26 years without question."

At the beginning of what she called her father's "spiritual death," Mrs. Kyle said, she and her brother, Saint John, found Hunt pale and haggard, aged 30 years. "He was thin, his mind was unclear and his conversation confusing. This once proud human being reduced to a babbling nonperson."

She said she and her husband, Chuck, last saw her father in November at Eglin AFB, Fla., where he now is incarcerated. "For the first time, we were able to make him smile a bit. He said he had completely surrendered his

hopes for freedom."

She said the disgrace and humiliation of Watergate has "wreaked havoc" on the rest of the family, too. She said her 12-year-old brother, David, has been living with his godfather in Miami and asks whether his father will come home to take care of him.

She said some of her friends have

turned their backs on her and that her brother, Saint John, and her sister have moved to other states.

"It was hard to forgive my father at first for the break-in," Mrs. Kyle wrote. "I felt he had not only risked his reputation, but had ruined our lives as well. I could not comprehend his massive love affair with America."