

Hunt-early info on

In going over the initial reporting, it strikes me that there was a bit too much known about the details of Hunt's writing too soon for it to be attributable to diligent reporting. The Star, for example, in its 6/21/72 piece has the names from the novels tied to the WG aliases plus details of the plots.

I don't think it likely that if the papers did any real work it began before 6/18. This means, if the Star was first (and I haven't checked the file on his writing) they had two days. To read all that work, fast as it may read?

Another possibility is that somebody knew it all and fed it. The Star is well-connected with the FBI. And maybe, just maybe, someone at the CIA had read Hunt's stuff.

Maybe nobody leaked this stuff on Hunt to the papers, either.

I don't know if the Star ever used it, but it has a story marked "Hunt for fifth run Tuesday", stamped Tue Jun 20 1972 which credits him with 42 novels, etc. It also says, wrongly, that his name had not been located until "yesterday," or the 19th. It includes this quote from Bennett, "I think I'm right in recalling that Mr. Helms and Mr. Mullen knew each other, and Mr. Mullen was looking for a writer about that time."

Hunt was not that kind of writer. He had no public-relations or copy-writing experience.

In his prepared statement Hunt said that at Mullen there were two who had CIA connections.

Mullen would seem to be a likely candidate. It was his firm. Bennett did not join until after Hunt was out of CIA. Perhaps he had worked for CIA, but as I recall the thrust of Hunt's statement, it is that when he went to work for Mullen two CIAers were already there.

Bennett added an interesting comment: "Mr Hunt has a long background of writing ability. That's what he did for the CIA."

Because it is not and because long before this Bennett knew that some of Hunt's work (at \$125 a day) was not satisfactory, I wonder why he said this. Volunteered it.

Maybe Bennett was just covering his company.

Maybe he did not know that Hunt used it as a cover before he left CIA. He should have.

However, if one does a little arithmetic with the words, Hunt's opening statement can spell "finger." There was no reason, no need for him to volunteer that two Mullen people besides him were CIA. Yet he did.

And I don't know why Bennett had to volunteer these things. Yet he did.

Did Hunt point ~~at~~ the finger back? 12/6/73