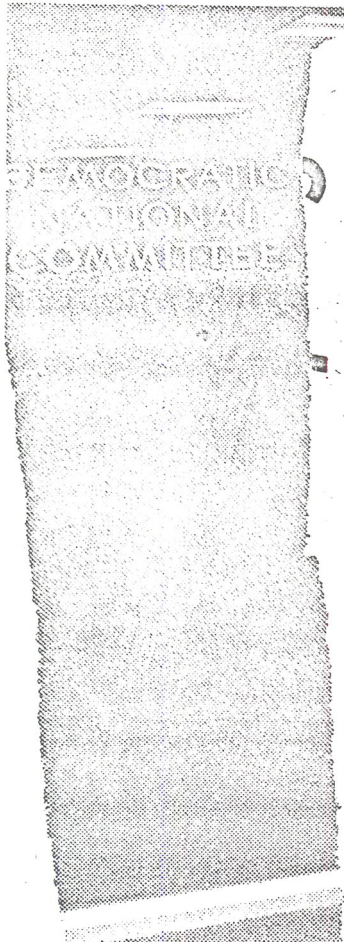


Midway crash

Tell jet 'sabotage'



's honored...

June 17th will be a special day for the break-in and burglars which led to the national award for a important contribution to the American people by the Concerned A.M.E. Ministers. The award is a Justice Award and a check for \$500.

Chicago Defender

CHICAGO'S

DAILY

PICTURE

NEWSPAPER

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SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1973



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BY JONINA ERWIN

A confidante to the late U. S. Rep. George Collins has charged that the Dec. 8 plane crash near Midway airport, which killed 45 persons, including Collins, a black CBS reporter, and the wife of a convicted Watergate conspirator, is directly linked to the Watergate affair.

Pierre Guilmant, who served as press relations aide to Collins, told the Daily Defender Thursday that Michele Clark, a CBS news reporter, was conducting an extensive investigation of the Watergate bugging incident as early as last summer.

He will testify at reopened hearings on the crash of United flight 553 which will be held next Wednesday at the Sheraton O'Hare Motor hotel. The hearings have been reopened as a result of a suit, brought by legal researcher, Sherman Skolnick, against the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Skolnick maintains that the NTSB did not conduct a thorough investigation of the fateful plane crash and that he and his team of investigators will prove sabotage, murder, and robbery in connection with the crash.

Guilmant said that last July during the Democratic convention in Miami, Collins called him to check on the credentials of Miss Clark, whom the late congressman said wanted to interview him concerning the Watergate bugging. According to Guilmant, it was Collins' practice to check news reporters' credentials prior to granting them an interview. Guilmant said, "I told George that Miss Clark's family was the center of a racial controversy in Cicero

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Tell Midway jet sabotage

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during the 1950's and that I knew Miss Clark."

Collins, Guilmant reported, had heard nothing about the Watergate incident and therefore, had to be briefed by Guilmant, who said he did not know if Miss Clark ever interviewed Collins.

The fact that Miss Clark was on the United flight along with Mrs. E. Howard Hunt, wife of the convicted Watergate

burglar and who reportedly was carrying \$10,000 in her purse in 100 bills, has led Builmant, he said, to believe that the plane was sabotaged. He insists that Miss Clark was nearing a major breakthrough in the Watergate story.