

Hunt lawyer asks CDN 6/13/73 to quiz Skolnick

By Larry S. Finley

The Chicago attorney for Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt said the National Transportation Safety Board has denied him the opportunity to question legal researcher Sherman Skolnick on charges that the Dec. 8 Midway plane crash was a plot to murder Hunt's wife.

The attorney, John D. Hayes, said he had requested permission to cross-examine Skolnick when he appears Wednesday before an NTSB hearing investigating the crash, which killed Mrs. Dorothy Hunt and 44 others.

Skolnick has charged that the crash was the result of a sabotage conspiracy aimed at silencing Mrs. Hunt and several others aboard the plane who had information about the Watergate scandal and other political corruption.

Hayes filed a \$2 million damage suit in Cook County Circuit Court Tuesday against United Air Lines and Boeing Co., the plane's manufacturer, for alleged negligence in the crash.

Hayes said he hoped that the suit would establish his right to question Skolnick. Hayes said he would renew his request at the NTSB hearing.

SKOLNICK SAID he had no objection to being questioned by Hayes or anyone else.

"I have nothing to hide," he said. "I'm only interested in getting at the truth. I would have liked to believe that the crash was an accident, but the evidence shows otherwise.

"The stuff we have documented is really mind blowing. The government is really going to be surprised when they see what we have."

After the Midway crash, \$10,000 in \$100 bills was discovered in Mrs. Hunt's belongings. Witnesses in the Watergate hearings in Washington have charged that Mrs. Hunt was a courier for payoff cash to the seven defendants convicted in the Watergate break-in of Democratic headquarters.

Skolnick maintains that Mrs. Hunt had close to \$2 million with her at the time of the crash. He said that he can prove that this money was in

the form of bank checks and traveler's checks and was ultimately stolen by a gang dealing in stolen securities.

SKOLNICK SAID that the crash also was connected to a plot in which government officials received bribes from big business in exchange for political favors.

The special hearing was called specifically at the request of United Air Lines to (air) Skolnick's charges. Skolnick was barred from speaking at previous hearings held in February.

Since then, the conspiracy story has received nationwide publicity.

The hearing is being held at the Sheraton-O'Hare Motor Inn 6810 N. Mannheim Rd., Rosemont.