

Evidence suggests Hunt 'in deeper' than Gate

WASHINGTON [AP]—E. Howard Hunt Jr., the ex-spy now in the Watergate spotlight, might have been involved in more shadowy activities than testimony has indicated, according to Senate sources.

Hunt was to return for further questioning by the Senate Watergate committee in today's hearing, televised by NBC [channel 5 in Chicago].

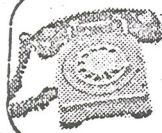
"We have reason to believe," one Senate investigator said, "that Hunt was involved in more than just the Ellsberg burglary and Watergate. That's not to say he will admit it."

Sources said the committee has evidence linking Hunt to a break-in at the Chilean Embassy here on May 13, 1972, two weeks before the first surreptitious entry into Democratic headquarters at the Watergate.

THE EMBASSY'S political files were rifled, but nothing was reported stolen, and no one ever has been arrested in the incident.

In another Watergate development yesterday, President Nixon's lawyers asked Chief U. S. District Judge John J. Sirica to throw out the Senate panel's suit seeking tapes of the President's conversations with Watergate figures. The White House said the court has no jurisdiction.

And the committee's hearings schedule was thrown into confusion when it was re-



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ported that former White House undercover agent John J. Caulfield, set to follow Hunt to the witness table, was hospitalized with ulcers.

IN HIS FIRST public appearance since being imprisoned for his part in the Watergate, Hunt admitted his role in the conspiracy.

Hunt's testimony added a new—but inconclusive—piece to the puzzle of who was behind the Watergate break-in. He said former special Presidential counsel Charles W. Colson, Hunt's mentor at the White House, knew months before Watergate that a broad intelligence-gathering plan was in the works.

But Hunt swore he didn't know whether Colson was aware the plan included burglary.

COLSON HAS DENIED prior knowledge of the break-in, but invoked the Fifth Amendment in refusing to answer questions under oath before the committee.

Hunt also admitted his part in the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office in an unsuccessful attempt to obtain

the records of the man who leaked Pentagon Papers. Colson got Hunt hired as a \$100 a day consultant at the White House to work on the Pentagon Papers case in July, 1971.

In a memo to Colson three weeks after he was hired, Hunt said his objective was "destroy Ellsberg's public image and credibility."

The retired CIA agent, with more than 20 years in clandestine service, told the committee he had planned other espionage operations that never materialized.

ONE WAS A cooperative venture with an agent of recluse billionaire Howard Hughes to break into a Las Vegas newspaperman's safe. Hunt said he had information the safe contained material that would destroy the Presidential candidacy of Sen. Edmund S. Muskie [D., Me.] and that the Hughes man wanted files on his boss.

The plan was scrapped when Muskie's standing in the polls slipped and Hughes' lieutenants rejected a request to provide an escape plane for the operation, Hunt said.

There also were plans to plant spies at the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach, stage disruptive demonstrations and set up a houseboat equipped with electronic eavesdropping equipment near the convention center, Hunt said. But he said that scheme collapsed when the men who were picked to carry it out were arrested inside the Watergate.

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E. Howard Hunt, waiting to go back to jail after testimony before the Senate Watergate committee, is embraced by his daughter, Lisa, 22. St. John Hunt, 19, grips his father's shoulder.

AP Wirephoto

