

A PLEA BY FIGURE IN RAID REPORTED

Friend Says Hunt Called to
Enlist White House Help

By TAD SZULC

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WASHINGTON, July 6—A friend of E. Howard Hunt Jr. said today that the former White House consultant had asked him to enlist White House aid in helping to find a lawyer.

Mr. Hunt, until earlier this week the object of a nationwide search by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with the June 17 raid on Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, reportedly telephoned his friend last Friday to say that he would "emerge" if he could obtain a satisfactory lawyer.

Today Government officials said that the F.B.I. had called off its search for Mr. Hunt because he had retained a lawyer. The lawyer, these officials said, told Federal officials that Mr. Hunt would be available.

"Mr. Hunt's friend, who requested not to be identified, told in an interview today of Mr. Hunt's telephone call to him and of the request that the White House be reached for assistance.

He said that among the persons Mr. Hunt suggested might be called at the White House was John Wesley Dean 3d, counsel to the President.

Despite reports last week-end that Mr. Hunt may have fled to Spain or elsewhere in Europe, his friend here said that the Friday telephone call was made from a telephone pay station somewhere in the United States because he could hear the operator asking for more coins to be deposited.

Mr. Hunt's friend said that he made no approaches to the White House on the behalf of the former consultant despite the appeal on Friday.

Aide Is Not Reached

Mr. Dean, said by White House sources last week to be acting as an informal Presidential staff coordinator on all aspects of the raid on the Democratic offices at the Wat-

ergate office building here, could not be reached for comment today.

Mr. Hunt, who resigned in 1970 from a senior post with the Central Intelligence Agency, was linked to the headquarters raid when his name and home telephone number were found in address books of two of the five men arrested by the police during the break-in.

All five are believed to have had close contacts with Mr. Hunt and the C.I.A. during the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961. Mr. Hunt played a major role in preparing the invasion and is known to have maintained, over the years, contacts with his former collaborators in Miami and here.

Associate's Statement

But Mr. Hunt's associate said that he did not know where the former C.I.A. official might have been before or since the Friday call.

Mr. Hunt's friends and associates have said that his part-time consultant status at the White House did not cease March 29, as was asserted by a White House spokesman last week, but continued until the time of the Watergate raid.

These persons said that on many occasions after the March

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date Mr. Hunt told his employers at the public relations firm of Robert R. Mullen & Co. that he remained busy with White House assignments and, consequently, needed free time.

The Mullen Company's records have been subpoenaed in connection with the current Federal grand jury investigation into the Watergate matter.

Federal agents apparently hoped that the Mullen records presumably include dates on which Mr. Hunt worked for the public relations company and when he was away on other assignments in Washington or on trips to Miami and elsewhere.

Mr. Bennett testified last week before the grand jury along with many other associates, friends and acquaintances of Mr. Hunt and the five persons arrested at the Democratic offices.

The grand jury's investigation reportedly centers on whether any Federal conspiracy statutes have been violated in the break-in.

Worked for White House

In May Mrs. Hunt told officials of the Spanish Embassy here, where she was employed until last week, that her husband had gone on working for the White House as late as the time of the raid.

Telephone calls by newsmen to the White House in June, immediately after Mr. Hunt's name first came to notice in connection with the Watergate raid, initially resulted in the callers being referred to the office of Charles W. Colson, also a counsel to the President, or to a special office that Mr. Hunt had in the Executive Office Building nextdoor to the White House.

Subsequently, however, White House operators told callers Mr. Hunt was no longer employed there. But last week the Department of Justice confirmed that a walkie-talkie and a pistol had been found in a desk drawer in Mr. Hunt's White House office. Two walkie-talkies were found on the Watergate suspects after their arrest.

It was Mr. Colson, according to the White House, who recommended Mr. Hunt in 1971 for the part-time consultant post.

Interviews here indicated that Mr. Colson and Mr. Hunt had long been close friends.

Their friends said in interviews that Mr. Colson had been a dinner and Sunday guest at the Hunt home, although this active friendship appeared to have diminished in recent months.

Mr. Hunt's friend who reported the Friday call said that the former consultant had not mentioned Mr. Colson's name among the several persons whom he asked to be called to help find a lawyer.