

C.I.A. Aide Was 'Shocked' by Hunt's

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 11—Following is the text of a statement by an unidentified employe of the Central Intelligence Agency describing partial reaction of the agency and the White House to reports that E. Howard Hunt Jr. was involved in the Watergate case. At the request of the C.I.A., names were deleted and numbers substituted by the House Judiciary Committee.

My secretary, Mrs. 19, and I frequently speculated about the possible involvement of Howard Hunt and the Watergate affair and the possible involvement of the agency. I was aware that Hunt had frequently transmitted sealed envelopes via our office to the agency. We had receipts for these envelopes but were unaware of the contents. However, Mr. 20, who had temporarily occupied my post during the illness of my predecessor, 21, and had been on hand to "break in" my immediate predecessor, 22 (who held the post for 30 days), had told me that he had opened one of the packages one day to see what Hunt was sending to the agency.

He said that the envelope was addressed to 6 and appeared to contain "gossip" information about an unknown person—he assumed that it had something to do with a psychological study of that person. Mrs. 19 subsequently confirmed this information.

Shortly after my assignment at the Executive Office Building, a new telephone list was issued by the White House and it contained Hunt's name. The Watergate news broke and Hunt was involved. The White House recalled the phone listings without reason and reissued them—we noted that Hunt's

name had been deleted. As the news of the Watergate and Hunt's involvement spread, we—at a date unknown—decided that it was not prudent nor necessary to retain the receipts for envelopes which we had transmitted from him to C.I.A. and we destroyed these receipts.

Earlier this year information appeared in the press which discussed Hunt and psychological studies. Linking the above information with these news reports I became concerned that the agency might become publicly involved in this publicity and that it would be an embarrassment which the agency should be aware of and prepared for. I had no knowledge of whether or not Hunt had arranged with Mr. Helms or someone else in authority for 6 to make psychological studies or whether Hunt had prevailed upon 6 because of some past connection or whether or not 6 was doing this officially or "free lance." But I felt strongly that the agency should be aware of this—Hunt's 6 connection—in case it did not already know.

I called Dr. Schlesinger and said that I had a confidential matter to discuss with him and visited him one night about 6:30. (I do not recollect the time but Mr. 1 fixes it at 2 May). I said that I was aware of some information that was not first hand but which I had verified and that I felt it had implications which might embarrass the agency and therefore he should be aware of this information so that he could prepare for public involvement, in case he was not already aware of it.

I related what I knew about envelopes from Hunt to the agency and specifically about the transmittal of information to 6. He seemed surprised and unaware of any such link. He asked

me, "What shall I do with 6." I said (somewhat taken aback at this question) that I thought he should first talk to 6 and get his side of the story and that I found it hard to believe that an individual of the agency would become involved in something like this without some approval from higher authority within the agency; also, that I was sure that someone had compiled the facts about the agency's involvement with Hunt and the Watergate and that it should be available somewhere in the agency if he had not already seen it.

He seemed dismayed and bewildered that something like this could have happened and that he did not know about it. I repeated that I was sure that it was a matter of record somewhere and that it simply may not have been brought to his attention. He thanked me for reporting this information.

'Another Tangent' Recalled

The following day I had a call from Mr. 23, Dr. Schlesinger's assistant and a former colleague on the N.S.C. staff, asking for a review of what I had reported saying that Dr. Schlesinger was very upset and had asked him to look into this right away. He wanted to know if I had any more details. I subsequently remembered another tangent to this subject and stopped in his office the following day (which was about 3 May according to Mr. 1 timetable) and related it to him.

It was that Mrs. 19 recalled that one day Hunt had come to see 22 and they had talked behind closed doors. After the talk 22 came out and remarked to her that he was amazed, shocked and bewildered by the things that Hunt told him he was doing. He scratched and shook his head, remarked what an in-

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teresting job Hunt had, but revealed none of the details of his conversation.

The only specific item he mentioned was a film that Hunt was working on for educational TV which involved one of the Nixon daughters. (I confirmed with Mrs. 19 this date that this is her recollection of this event.) 23 said that my report to Dr. Schlesinger was the first that the latter had heard that the agency was in any way involved and that the agency and Dr. Schlesinger, in particular, owed me a debt of gratitude for coming forward with this information. I remarked again that I would be surprised if the agency had not already compiled a report on Hunt's involvement with the agency because I knew that Mr. Helms was probably aware of some of Hunt's activities and might have authorized the use of 6 and that because of his 23 and Schlesinger's newness on the job they simply had not seen this material or had reason to ask for it. He said that he intended to find out.

23 subsequently told me that 22 had been interviewed and said that he knew nothing of Hunt's activities. I suggested that 20 be interviewed because not only had he opened at least the one Hunt-6 envelope, but he may have additional information to report from his personal talks with Hunt.

23 told me sometime later that Schlesinger was awarding a medal to General Walters for his role in the Watergate affair and remarked again that my report had triggered the revelation of the iceberg. We joked about how the generals always get the medals!

I do not believe that the subject has come up again until this time.