

NY Times
JAN 3 1975
Of the C.I.A. and Goldwater's Campaign

To the Editor:
I am sure Mr. Hersh is on to a
good story. I am sure he will
find the information he needs
in the files of the C.I.A. re-
lated to the campaign of Sen. E.
Goldwater to demonstrate that the
country's history of domestic chicanery
has not ended yet.

Mr. Hunt, it seems, told the Senators
that during the summer of 1964, his
boss, C. Ross Barnes, was instructed
by President Johnson to acquire "any
and all information" on Senator Barry
Goldwater's Presidential campaign.
That information, again, according to
Hunt, was to be passed to me. Since
the implications of all this are fairly
vivid, and since Mr. Barnes and
President Johnson are both dead, I
owe it to them as well as to myself
to tell what I know.

I was concerned with Asia, particu-
larly Vietnam, during the summer of
1964 (and for all-too many years to
follow). I can recall several occasions
during the Presidential campaign
when, among the scores of pieces of
mail that crossed my desk each day,
there were press releases from the
Republican National Committee pro-
viding advance texts on Goldwater's
speeches.

Since there was a running debate
between President Johnson and candi-
date Goldwater on what the United
States should do in Vietnam, I paid
much attention to Goldwater's Vietnam
("Why not Victory") views. The
White House press office was flooded
with such handouts, and it did not
cross my mind that the C.I.A., at the
direction of the President of the United
States, may have mounted a major
operation to assure that micrographed

copies of Senator Goldwater's
policy oratory would be available
to the press before or after it appeared
in the early editions of the afternoon
newspapers.

To tie up any further loose ends,
I never heard of Mr. Hunt until he
was caught with his bugs down at
the Watergate; I was never told by
Mr. Johnson or anyone else of the
C.I.A. "assignment," and I never saw
or heard of anything more lascivious
in connection with Senator Gold-
water's Presidential campaign than an
occasional press release.

So much for the juicy fruits of the
hot operation Mr. Hunt implies he
conducted and Mr. Hersh apparently
believes was mounted against Senator
Goldwater in 1964.

Neither Mr. Hunt's story nor my
account above is new, of course.
Hunt's story was in The Washington
Post (page 1) on Dec. 18, 1973; what
I have repeated above was in The
Post (page 1) on the following day.
Perhaps Mr. Hersh felt Hunt's story
was worth rehashing more than a year
later. But if so, he should have also
contacted me, or even better, done
his homework.

CHESTER L. COOPER
Washington, Jan. 2, 1975

The writer served in the White House
from 1963 to 1966.

The Times welcomes letters from
readers. Letters for publication
must include the writer's name,
address and telephone number.
Because of the large volume of
mail received, we regret that we
are unable to acknowledge or to
return unpublished letters.
