

Transcribed from tape

Proceedings of the Senate Select Committee  
on 1972 Presidential Campaign Activities

Excerpt from Testimony by E. Howard Hunt Jr.

Sen. Howard Baker: Mr. Hunt, you've already testified as to how you were employed as a White House consultant, and I won't extend our conversation about that much further except to say you were employed first by Mr. Colson. I believe you and Mr. Colson had been associated in the -- or had been together in the alumni association of Brown University, that you were both alumni of Brown.

Hunt: Yes sir.

Baker: And that Mr. Colson was aware of your previous history and background with the Central Intelligence Agency and its predecessor.

Hunt: Yes sir.

Baker: Would you briefly tell us of your CIA and intelligence background -- or, if you want me to, I can briefly read the resume that staff has supplied me, and you can correct it -- would it be more convenient to do it that way?

Hunt: I would prefer that you do it, sir.

Baker: The information we have is that you graduated from Brown in 1940 and entered the Navy. You were discharged after being injured in an accident at sea, in 1942-43 you were an editor for The March of Time and a war correspondent for Life Magazine. And from 1943 to 1946 you worked with the Office of Strategic Services, using the Army Air Force as a cover. You trained people in clandestine intelligence work in Orlando, Fla., then you were assigned to work with Chinese guerrilla bands behind the Japanese lines. You were based for a while in Kunming in Southern China, and your OSS unit won a presidential citation. In 1946 you obtained a Guggenheim fellowship and spent a year in Mexico reading Spanish -- reading, learning Spanish and writing. And for two years you were a movie script writer. The CIA was created in 1947, and in early 1949 you joined that agency; after a short period at headquarters you were sent to Paris as an attache at the American Embassy. During 1949 and 1950 you were in Vienna, Austria. ~~From~~ From 1950 to 1953 you were in Mexico City, and from 1953 to 1956 your cover position was that of a political advisor to the defense department of [?] [on?] Latin America, Japan, Spain and several European countries. During this period, you were actively involved in the overthrow of the Guatemalan regime. From 1957 to 1960 you were CIA station chief in Montevideo, where your cover was first secretary at the American consulate. [embassy?] When the CIA sought to reassign you from that position, there was a good bit of dispute over whether you should, or should not, and there were rumors that ~~President~~ President Benito Nardone [phon] the president of Uruguay was asked to intervene on your behalf to keep you stationed there. At any point in this summary, which I repeat is a staff summary, if you have a disagreement feel free to tell me so.

Baker: Your cover as consultant to the Department of Defense from 1960 to 1965 -- in 1960 you were ordered back to Washington from Uruguay to participate in in preparations for the Cuban invasion. You resigned from the foreign service in 1960 for the purposes of a more effective cover and moved to Mexico, and then to Miami, posing as a writer who had suddenly come into an inheritance. For the next 19 months your alias was Eduardo; you acted as the CIA's representative to the Cuban

Revolutionary Council, the prospective post-Castro group, and whose main invasion brigade was being trained in Guatemala. You resigned your job when the -- certain disputes arose after the assignment of certain people to the provisional government of Cuba, -- and went to Miami to serve with the Cuban Council. After the ~~Cuban~~ invasion ~~failed~~ of Cuba failed, you served as personal assistant to CIA director Allen W. Dulles. Your subsequent activities are not entirely known. In 1963 the American ambassador in Madrid refused to accept you as deputy chief of the local CIA station. However you were in Madrid on unknown business from 1965 to 1966. According to information staff supplies, the 1966- edition of Who's Who lists you as a retired government official living in Madrid. You returned to Washington in 1968 purchased a home in Potomac, Maryland, and retired from the CIA on April 30, 1970. From 1970 to 1971 you were a vice-president of the Robert R. Mullin Company, where you continued to work until you became a White House consultant in July of 1971, until your dismissal on July 17, 1972. Is that a fair sketch of your career ?

Hunt: Reasonably fair, yes sir.

Baker: Was Colson aware of this extensive -- rather extensive OSS, CIA, Bay of Pigs involvement ?

Hunt: Yes sir.

Baker: Did you discuss that as a precondition of your employment ?

Hunt: I discussed that with him over a period of years.

Baker: At the time you went to work with Mullins & Co. were you aware of, or is it a fact that Mullins & Co. had ever been cooperative or had any connection with the CIA ?

Hunt: Yes sir.

Baker: Were you aware of that ?

Hunt: Yes sir.

Baker: After you became a consultant at the White House, did you contact the CIA about your new position ?

Hunt: I certainly my former associates know of my new White House connection.

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