

'Bugging' Items Given to the FBI

Washington

The White House has turned over to the FBI a pistol and part of a walkie-talkie found in the office of White House consultant Howard F. Hunt, a Justice Department spokesman said yesterday.

Hunt, an ex-CIA agent, has been linked to the June 17 burglary and bugging attempt at Democratic National Committee headquarters here.

He has refused to talk to newsmen and reportedly declined to answer questions by FBI agents investigating the bugging attempt.

The Justice spokesman said a .25 caliber pistol and half of a small walkie-talkie were among items the White House staff found in Hunt's desk in the old Executive Office Building next door to the White House. It was not known whether the gun was loaded when found, but it was unloaded when turned over to the FBI.

The spokesman said he also did not know whether the walkie-talkie part was linked to the five walkie-talkies seized from five suspects who were arrested during the alleged bugging attempt.

Earlier it was learned that the five walkie-talkies had been purchased by one of the suspects, ex-CIA agent James W. McCord Jr., ostensibly for security work in connection with the Republican National Committee. That committee and the Committee for the Re-election of the President fired McCord as their security director after his arrest in the bugging case.

The Justice spokesman said the FBI had requested the White House staff to turn over any items found in Hunt's desk.

CONSULTANT

Meanwhile, the White House acknowledged that Hunt was still officially listed as a consultant to Charles Colson, special counsel to President Nixon, at the time of the bugging attempt. Earlier, the White House had said Hunt had not been a consultant since March 29.

However, a spokesman said yesterday that while Hunt had not been paid as a consultant since March 29, he still was officially listed on White House records and had access to the Executive Office Building.

"I know he has been back in the building since March 29, but I don't know how many times," he said.

PR FIRM

Hunt, 54, served part-time as a \$100-a-day consultant to Colson. He worked full-time across the street from the Executive Office Building as a writer at a public relations firm headed by prominent Republicans. The firm dismissed him after he was linked to the bugging case and left town without an explanation.

Hunt was first linked to the case when officers discovered his name and phone number, followed by the notations "W. House" and "W.H." in the address book of two of the suspects.

Colson, described by a White House official as "a tough-minded ambitious man who gets things done," reportedly had cooperated with the FBI in the investigation.

Ronald Ziegler, the President's press secretary, told newsmen Mr. Nixon is convinced there is no White House involvement in the bugging attempt.

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