

Warrant in Raid on Democrats Is Expected for Missing Figure

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By ROBERT M. SMITH JUL 4 1972

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WASHINGTON, July 3—Government officials expect a warrant to be issued by Wednesday for the arrest of E. Howard Hunt Jr. as a material witness in connection with last month's raid on the Democratic National Committee.

Despite what one Government official called "the most intensive application of resources" last week by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. Hunt has not been found. Government sources reported earlier that F.B.I. agents had twice sought to interview Mr. Hunt but that he had declined to answer their questions.

Mr. Hunt was reliably reported to have fled to Europe and possibly to be in Spain. He is a former official of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Friends of his wife, Dorothy, said that F.B.I. agents interviewed her last Wednesday at their suburban home in Maryland.

But they relayed Mrs. Hunt's impression that the Federal agents were not looking for him at that time and that the interview concerned mostly her professional and personal activities.

Mrs. Hunt's friends also said that she was mystified about reports that the bureau had problems in finding him. They said she knew her husband's whereabouts but would not divulge them.

They said that Mrs. Hunt had returned to her job at the Spanish Embassy on June 26, and not on June 20 as The New York Times reported this morning. Embassy officials said yesterday she had returned ahead of time from a European vacation because of bad weather in Europe.

But her friends said today that another reason for her

early return was the need to look after her two children after Mr. Hunt telephoned her in Europe that he was leaving the Washington area for a time because of harassment to which he was being subjected when his name was linked with the raid. Mrs. Hunt is not believed to have seen her husband since her return.

Her friends said that Mrs. Hunt's employment at the Spanish Embassy was formally terminated today because of the publicity surrounding her husband.

According to Government officials, when the F.B.I. interviewed Mr. Hunt, it was "early in the game" and they did not realize the importance of the information the Justice Department now believes he may have to offer.

L. Patrick Gray, acting director of the F.B.I., declined in a telephone interview to comment on the progress of the bureau's investigation of the June 17 break-in at the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate Office Building.

He said, however, that the bureau's investigation was being conducted on "a 24-hour basis" and that it was being treated as "a major special case." Mr. Gray said that he was reading not only the summaries prepared by his subordinates but also all of his agents' "raw" interviews.

Mr. Gray did confirm that the investigation had been wide-ranging. Government sources reported that bureau agents had interviewed some people in the White House, including Charles W. Colson, special counsel to the President. Mr. Colson recommended Mr. Hunt, who retired from the C.I.A. in 1970, as a part-time consultant for the White House in 1971.

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