

[on the 12:30 p.m. news headlines, U.S. District Judge John Sirica was quoted as saying, in denying E. Howard Hunt's plea for a reduction in \$100,000 surety bond, that Hunt had left the area and traveled to California under an alias and that the FBI had been unable to find him. (Reference to traveling to California not previously seen).]

6 p.m. news: following an account of Hunt's pleading guilty to all six counts of the indictment, a tape was played of an interview by reporters with Hunt and his attorney (presumably Bittman) following the court session:

Announcer ** ...Hunt spoke to reporters outside the courthouse immediately following his release, and agreed to read a short statement and to answer three questions from news men.

Hunt ** Now gentlemen, I'd like to say this: Antyhing I may have done, I did for what I believed to be in the best interests of my country. And, as a believer in the law, I understood then and understand now the consequences of breaking it.

Q -- Mr. Hunt, we understand that one of the questions you intend to answer is, why did you plead guilty ?

Hunt -- My plea of guilty was the result of a great many factors. As you gentlemen know, I pleaded guilty to all counts ~~against me~~ that were charged against me this morning in court. With the unexpected, — the tragic death of my wife just a month ago, I felt that I could not sustain the experience of a long trial. I felt that I should be with my children. I felt further that by pleading guilty, my plea of guilty might be taken into consideration at the time of sentencing later on and result in a perhaps, hopefully, a lesser sentence.

Q -- One of the questions your lawyer said you permit is, if you testify before a grand jury, would your testimony implicate higher-ups or indicate that there was a wider conspiracy than the one now being tried ?

Hunt -- I would testify as follows, gentlemen, that to my personal knowledge there was not.

Q -- He also said that you would answer the question that was put to you by the judge today, that is, was the prosecution's opening statement substantially correct ?

Hunt -- Insofar as Mr. Silbert's opening statement concerned me, it was substantially correct.

Q -- How did you raise bail ?

and there's

Hunt -- It's not bail. It's a surety bond, ~~that~~ a substantial difference. The bond was arranged through the assignment of the proceeds of my late wife's insurance policies.

Q -- Sir, your lawyer also indicated you might be willing to expand one of those questions, to answer the question, was there a wider conspiracy than has been reflected through the statement of the prosecution in this case ?

Voice (presumably Bittman) -- I believe Mr. Hunt's already answered that question that to his personal knowledge there was not, and if required to go before a grand jury at a later date he would so testify.

Q -- Could we ask just the old question, about his feelings now that this event has taken place, just a more personal..... (several talking at once, unintelligible) just your general feelings ?

Hunt -- My general feeling at this point is that I'm very anxious to be reunited with my family, and I leave you with that.
