

# Time Ties Bugging to White House

New York

Time magazine<sup>\*</sup> reported yesterday that former Central Intelligence Agency agent E. Howard Hunt recruited four other conspirators in the Watergate bugging case in part by telling them the operation had White House approval.

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The Time story, in the current issue, said that Hunt told the four that approval specifically came from former Attorney General John Mitchell, then head of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, and Charles W. Colson, who at the time was on the White House staff as special counsel to the President.

Time, directly quoting a purported conversation between Hunt and the other four, said Hunt had told them, "It's got to be done. My friend Colson wants it. Mitchell wants it."

The magazine also said it was Hunt who talked the men into pleading guilty at the trial last week of the case involving a conspiracy to electronically eavesdrop on Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate complex and to illegally entering the premises.

*Reuters*