

# SFChronicle FEB 21 1973 Bugging Figure 'Interviewed Dita'

## Washington

Charles W. Colson, special counsel to President Nixon, sent Watergate bugging figure E. Howard Hunt Jr. to Denver last March to interview International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. lobbyist Dita Beard, according to Colson's own sworn testimony.

Sources close to the Watergate investigation said that Colson's testimony was given federal investigators during in a secret deposition to the Watergate probe last year.

At the time of the Denver trip, Hunt was working as a White House consultant, a position for which he had been hired on Colson's recommendation. Colson, in other sworn public testimony relating to the Watergate incident, has said that Hunt was not working for him as late as March, 1972, when the visit to Mrs. Beard occurred.

In another sworn deposition taken in a civil suit filed by the Democratic Party in connection with the Watergate case, Colson said under oath that Hunt worked for him only for a few weeks in the summer of 1971.

Republican sources said Colson sent Hunt to Denver to obtain information to challenge Mrs. Beard's controversial memo that alleged there was a direct connection between the settlement of antitrust cases by

the Justice Department and ITT's offer to help bring the 1972 GOP convention to San Diego.

Colson could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Hunt traveled to Denver under the assumed name, Edward Hamilton, an alias he used during the Watergate conspiracy, the federal sources said.

Republican sources said that Hunt wore an inexpensive wig during the interview with Mrs. Beard early in the week of March 19.

A two-week investigation by the Washington Post shows that Hunt's trip was part of an effort to discredit the Dita Beard memo. The work by Hunt and Colson led at least in part to Mrs. Beard's statement issued March 17, charging that the memo was a "forgery" and "a hoax."

*Washington Post Service*

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