

Hunt Reportedly Talked Of Anti-Muskie Break-In

Washington

A burglary venture that might have revealed information on Senator Edmund S. Muskie's presidential campaign was discussed, but never carried out, by E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former Hunt business associate has told the *New York Times*.

Robert F. Bennett, president of a Washington public relations firm that once employed Hunt, who is one of the Watergate conspirators, said Hunt in 1971 discussed with him possibly breaking

into the safe of a Las Vegas publisher in search for papers that Hunt told him might be "very damaging" to the senator from Maine.

Hunt was a \$100-a-day White House consultant whose exact duties in the 1972 presidential campaign have never been made clear.

He pleaded guilty in the Watergate break-in case and has been identified in Defense Department documents as possibly having broken into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

He is also reported to have looked into the background of another potential democratic presidential nominee, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, to have worked on "narcotics intelligence" and studied how to prevent leaks of information from the State Department and Defense Department as a member of a group which called themselves "plumbers."

The 54-year-old former CIA employee was vice president of the Robert R. Mullen Co. and was signed on to work for the White House as a part-time consultant in July, 1971.

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