

Editor petitions to be unadministrative

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Buckley role in Mrs. Hunt estate

BY HOWARD MARKS

COLUMNIST AND magazine editor William F. Buckley Jr. is seeking to be named administrator of the estate of Mrs. Dorothy Hunt, widow of one of the Watergate figures, CHICAGO TODAY has learned.

Buckley has petitioned a Montgomery County, Md., court to appoint him to settle the estate of Mrs. Hunt, who was killed Dec. 8 in a commercial plane crash near Midway airport.

She was the wife of convicted Watergate conspirator E. Edward Hunt Jr., and ex-C.I.A. agent and former White House consultant.

Buckley had been named an alternate beneficiary in a will by Mrs. Hunt executed on Aug. 3, 1967.

A News Analysis

IN A PHONE interview, Mrs. Winifred E. Scott, registrar of wills in Montgomery County, said that Judge Ralph Shure had issued an order for Hunt to show cause why he shouldn't be removed as executor after Buckley filed his petition.

Maryland law forbids convicted criminals from serving as executors of estates. In a reply filed on March 16, Hunt asked to be removed as executor of his wife's estate.

Buckley, editor of the National Review, could not be reached for comment. His secretary said he would not discuss his rela-

tionship to Hunt or the Watergate scandal. The two men have been friends for several years, Hunt appeared on Buckley's television show in January, but Watergate wasn't discussed.

MRS. SCOTT SAID that Mrs. Hunt's will is being held in abeyance until the court receives a full accounting in full for the \$10,585 found in Mrs. Hunt's purse at the time of the plane crash, Mrs. Scott said.

There has been speculation that the cash was connected with payoffs to the Watergate conspirators, but Harold C. Carlsstead Sr., a Chicago Heights accountant, said Mrs. Hunt intended to use the money as a down payment on a Holiday Inn franchise in the Chicago area.

Carlsstead's wife is a cousin of Mrs. Hunt.

Mrs. Scott said that \$10,000 of the money carried by Mrs. Hunt had not been accounted for by attorneys.

She said the court contacted Chicago attorney Michael N. Nash. He, in turn, told CHICAGO TODAY that after the money was released by police, he sent a check for \$10,585.36 to a law firm retained by Hunt.

HOWEVER, MRS. SCOTT said that Nash thus far has not replied to Shure's letter which was sent April 10.

It also was learned that Mrs. Hunt had bought \$225,000 in flight insurance from Tele-Trip Inc. before her trip.

Carlsstead said that Mrs. Hunt rarely bought flight insurance, which concluded with earlier statements by Hunt who claimed they always bought big policies before flying.