

# 'Hunt Told to Flee U.S. After Burglary'

## Washington

John W. Dean III, former White House counsel, ordered E. Howard Hunt Jr. to flee the country two days after the Watergate burglary, federal prosecutors have been told by Charles W. Colson, who was then special counsel to President Nixon.

Colson told the prosecutors that Dean was one of the first participants in the effort to conceal official connections with the plot.

He also quoted Dean as

saying that he had been acting under orders from John D. Ehrlichman, then the President's chief domestic adviser.

Yet Colson's testimony emphasized that Dean had taken a willing, knowing role in the coverup when he ordered Hunt abroad and also in several later incidents.

By Colson's account, given also to the FBI and the Watergate grand jury, it was his own explosive reaction to the idea of sending Hunt abroad

that killed the plan.

Hunt, a one-time foreign intelligence agent, joined the White House staff, with Colson's recommendation, in the summer of 1971. On the night of the Watergate raid—the early hours of June 17, 1972—he was in a nearby hotel room trying to coordinate operations by walkie-talkie.

Hunt was indicted for conspiracy and on other charges last September 15 and pleaded guilty January 11.

N.Y. Times Service