

JUN 9 1973

WXPost Howard Hunt Cites Shakespeare, Tells Newsmen 'I'm Cinna the Poet'

LOS ANGELES, June 8 (UPI)—E. Howard Hunt briefly free from a federal prison to testify before a grand jury here, told a mob of newsmen yesterday:

"I am not Cinna the Conspirator. I am Cinna the Poet."

That left most of the reporters baffled, and some weren't sure what he said.

Hunt, who pleaded guilty in the break-in of Democratic Party headquarters

last June, wrote and published more than 30 spy novels during his days as a CIA agent. He was apparently referring to a scene in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" in which the murdered Caesar is at the feet of Marc Antony, and Antony inflames the mob to revenge with the speech that begins "Friends, Romans, countrymen."

When he finishes, a poet named Cinna enters the

scene, and the enraged mob kills him because he has the same name as one of the conspirators.

"Cinna the poet was an innocent bystander, a little man who was the victim of a politician's clever oratory and a bloody minded public determined to get revenge and damn the details," said a college English professor. He added:

"Mr. Hunt seems to be trying to tell us something."