

United Air Lines weighing lawsuit against Skolnick

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By Larry S. Finley

United Air Lines officials are considering taking legal action against Chicago legal researcher Sherman Skolnick because of his repeated charges that murder, sabotage and robbery were involved in the Dec. 8 crash of a United Air Lines plane. The crash near Midway Airport killed Watergate figure Mrs. Dorothy Hunt and 4 others.

Skolnick testified under oath before the National Transportation Safety Board that officials of United Air Lines played a part in covering up sabotage of the United jet in order to silence persons connected with the Watergate scandal. He also alleged some of the corruption in the Nixon administration.

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to see if any legal action is required."

IN THE belongings of the wife of convicted Watergate conspirator D. Howard Hunt, investigator E. Howard Hunt found \$10,000 in \$100 bills, which has been linked to an alleged Watergate cover-up.

Skolnick contends that the crash was a conspiracy and that nearly 50,000 and incriminating documents were in Mrs. Hunt's possession.

Because of the publicity United requested the special hearing, which began Wednesday. Other NTSB hearings were held in February and March at which Skolnick was not allowed to testify.

For a day, Street listened to Skolnick and of an elaborate crash not involving United Air Lines. The ... ..  
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THURSDAY, Street tossed question after question at Skolnick designed to put down his various charges and to pave the way for possible legal action.

"It is your position that United Air Lines participated in the sabotage and murder of its passengers and the destruction of its own aircraft?" Street asked.

Skolnick said that unnamed officials of United were "accomplices" in covering up crash details and misdirected part of the \$10,000,000.

Street continued pressing, trying to force Skolnick into making charges against specific United officials, including former Watergate aide F. Lee ... ..

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executive job that Skolnick said was a payoff.

"Are you accusing Mr. Chapin of being an accomplice to a murder?" Street pressed on.

"Yes, by way of the cover-up," Skolnick said.

JOINING IN the heated verbal attack on Skolnick was United Capt. John R. McDonald, spokesman for the Air Lines Pilot's Assn., who pointed out a long list of alleged technical errors in Skolnick's story.

Capt. McDonald and Skolnick continued their fight during a recess.

"Why aren't you sticking up for those pilots (in the crash)?" Skolnick said.

"I'm just trying to educate you, Mr. Skolnick," McDonald said.

AMONG SKOLNICK'S witnesses were Alex Bontos and Joseph Zale, who both said they had seen part of the jet they believed to have belonged to Mrs. Hunt. Bontos said he also saw documents linking

former Army Gen. John Mitchell with a bribery scandal.

Jean-Pierre Guilmant, former public relations director for the late Rep. George Brown (D-Cal.), testified that U.S. Senator Mitchell, Skolnick said, asked to talk to Guilmant in the Watergate case. Guilmant said he did not know Mitchell in the Watergate case.