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# Phone Call Between Hunt and Colson



Jack Anderson

NOT LONG AFTER the November election, Watergate ringleader E. Howard Hunt telephoned Charles Colson in the White House and put the squeeze on him for money.

"The cheapest commodity available is money," said Hunt, reminding the presidential trouble-shooter that "we're protecting the guys who are really responsible."

Hunt complained about the paralysis inside the White House over Watergate. "I would hope," he said, "that... the people who were paralyzed initially by this within the White House could now start to give some creative thinking to the affair and some affirmative action, for Chrissake."

"That's true," agreed Colson.

"I think now is the time for it," pressed Hunt. "We expect it now, and we want it. The election is out of the way, the initial terror of a number of people has subsided... A few good people ought to really be able to concentrate on this and get the G-- d-- thing out of the way for once and for all..."

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THEN HUNT got down to the purpose of his call. "One of the initial outputs that I have read about," he said, "is that while this is done by a bunch of wild-assed guys... well, that's fine for we're protecting the guys who are really responsible..."

"But at the same time, this is a two-way street... We think now is the time when the move should be made and surely the cheapest commodity available is money.

"These lawyers have not been paid: there are large sums of money outstand-

ing. That's the principal thing. Living allowances which are due again on the 31st of the month, we want that stuff well in hand for some months in advance... They're all promised in advance and reaffirmed from time..."

"I'm reading you," replied Colson. "You don't have to be more specific."

"I don't want to belabor it."

"It isn't a question of that," said Colson. "It's just that the less specifics I know, the better off I am — we are, you are."

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THEN HUNT asked Colson: "Would you be willing to receive a memorandum from me? ... I think it might help you."

"Except," objected Colson, "there are things you might not want to tell me."

"There's really nothing I don't want to tell you," said Hunt. "I would think you could receive this memorandum, read it and destroy it."

"Nope," Colson rejected the suggestion.

"You couldn't do that?" asked Hunt.

"Nope," Colson said again. "The reason I can't is the same reason your letter to me, when I got that and when I was asked by federal authorities had I had any communication and I said yes, I've received this letter and here it is... You can't get in the position where you're perjuring."

"Of course not," Hunt agreed. "And I'm afraid John Mitchell already has done."

"The real problem is, you see, I don't want to get in the position of knowing something that I don't now know."