

WXPST
SEP 26 1973

Hunt's Foes Still on the Job

By Lawrence Feinberg
Washington Post Staff Writer

Two officials of the U.S. Office of Education, whom Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. suggested be punished for getting him fired from a public relations job, said yesterday they are still on their jobs, and have

not been punished or harassed by anyone.

The two also said that Hunt was wrong in believing that they tried to get him fired after he was first linked to the Watergate break-in in June, 1972.

Robert F. Bennett, Hunt's former boss at the Robert R. Mullen public relations

firm, agreed with the two, saying that he decided to "suspend" Hunt from his job and then fire him without being asked to do so by anyone at the Office of Education.

The two officials, Edwin W. Martin, then an associate commissioner of education, and Harvey W. Liebergott, at the time a projects officer at the Office of Education, were named by Hunt in a letter, addressed "Dear Chuck," that Hunt wrote on Aug. 9, 1972, to former White House aide Charles W. Colson.

The letter, ^{SEP} made public Monday by the Senate select Watergate committee, asked Colson to arrange "discreet reprisals" against the two officials because they "insisted that I be removed" from a project dealing with their office.

Martin, who heads the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, said the for several months before the Watergate break-in he had "not been too satisfied" with Hunt's work on television and magazine advertisements about special education for handicapped children.

But Martin said that he did not insist that the firm, which had a government contract for the publicity work, fire Hunt.

When he phoned Bennett after Hunt's name was first mentioned in the Watergate case, Martin said Bennett told him that Hunt had already been suspended.

Since then, Martin said yesterday, "I haven't noticed any pattern of harassment against me" as a result of Hunt's request.

Liebergott, who now works for the Office of Education in Boston, also denied yesterday that he insisted that Hunt be dropped from the project.

"I've never had any kind of flack (because of his dealings with Hunt)," Liebergott said.

"Maybe I might have been promoted," he added, "but nobody has been promoted here."