

Hunt Says He Spied On Goldwater for LBJ

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Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. has told the staff of the Senate select Watergate committee that he conducted surveillance of Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) during the 1964 Presidential campaign at the order of President Lyndon B. Johnson, according to informed sources.

The exact nature and duration of Hunt's activities were not revealed, but Goldwater, an amateur dabbler in electronics, said yesterday that he had no indication that the surveillance involved electronic eavesdropping.

Another source said that Hunt was not certain of the dates of the surveillance, although he told the committee staff it began well before Goldwater's presidential nomination at the 1964 Republican Convention and lasted until after his overwhelming election defeat that November.

Hunt said he undertook the surveillance with a team of operatives, under directions from Mr. Johnson through an intermediary, who declined to say who Hunt named as the intermediary.

Goldwater, who declined to give the source of his information, said he had been told in the past two or three days that Hunt and a team that "could have been as many as 30 people not just working on me but working on other people, too" operated out of offices in "downtown" Washington. Although Goldwater said he could not be certain of the group's name, he thought it was "domestic investigations." Goldwater said he did not know the names of

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the other people under surveillance.

Goldwater said he had the impression that Hunt and the others involved in the operation were "on leave" from the CIA (where Hunt was supposed to be working at the time). "If I had to guess, I would guess that they didn't want it traced back to the CIA," Goldwater

said.

"I knew 10 years ago what was going on," Goldwater said, asserting that friends in the CIA and the FBI had told him then that he was under surveillance by both agencies. Goldwater said he had "no idea" what the investigation involved since he had no indicated that it delved into his private life, financial affairs, "home life or anything like that." Goldwater said he learned only two or three days ago of Hunt's professed involve-

ment. "I don't even know the man," Goldwater said.

Attempts were made last night to reach several aides to President Johnson in 1964, but only two could be reached.

Lawrence F. O'Brien, a White House aide in 1964 and later chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said he had never heard of Hunt at the time and, "Honestly, I never heard of such a thing," he added, referring to Hunt's reported testimony.

Horace Busby, a special assistant to the President at the time, said that Hunt's testimony "strikes me as preposterous on its face . . . While I thoroughly disbelieve it, I don't want to dispute the man on the basis of information I don't have," Busby said. Busby said he knew of no connection between Hunt and President Johnson or the White House in 1964. "I find it incredible . . . that Mr. Johnson would

have any need of surveillance of Sen. Goldwater," Busby said.

At the time, Goldwater said, "I just assumed it was one man or two men assigned at the direction of the President . . . It never bothered me. I never got upset about it. Oh, I guess it should have, but knowing Johnson as I did, I never got upset about it.

"I would naturally be concerned to learn what they did find out," Goldwater added, "not that I did anything wrong." Goldwater said he would like to know if Hunt kept a dossier on him, "But the fellow wouldn't tell me."

Goldwater said he did not

press his source of the information for details. "I didn't want to get too involved in it," Goldwater said. "I figured sooner or later it would come out."

Goldwater had said last April, "I was bugged by the other side and paid no attention to it." Yesterday, how-

ever, Goldwater said, "I found my place bugged and I know something about that because I'm an electronics expert."

At the same time, Goldwater said of President Johnson, "I knew that he had espionage. He had to have. For a long time I thought it was within my staff." Goldwater said that the Democrats "seemed to have my speeches before I had them" during the 1964 campaign.

A spokesman for CIA Director William E. Colby also said yesterday that Colby had "no comment" on Hunt's reported testimony. A spokesman for the FBI said he "categorically denied" Goldwater's assertion that the FBI was involved in any surveillance of him in 1964.

Hunt's appearance before the Senate Watergate committee's staff was part of an ongoing investigation by the Republican staff members of the possible role of the CIA in the Watergate affair. The committee's vice chairman, Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.), has been directing this inquiry for several months.

A source close to Hunt said yesterday that Hunt met Monday with Baker and on Tuesday with other members so the minority staff, and will probably meet with them again next week. In all of the committee discussions with Hunt to date—some informal, some with Hunt under oath—the main topic has been CIA domestic operations, the source said.

Baker appears to have collected a large number of allegations relating to CIA involvement in domestic matters, the source said, and Hunt is providing information about some of these activities.

Hunt, currently serving a sentence of 2½ to eight years in prison for his role in the break-in and bugging of the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters at the Allenwood (Pa.) Prison Camp, has been accompanied to his meetings with Baker and the Senate committee's minority staff by one of his attorneys, William A. Snyder of Baltimore. Snyder declined yesterday to comment on the meetings.

Another of Hunt's attorneys, C. Dickerman Wil-

liams, who said he has not been present for the meetings with Hunt, confirmed that Baker and minority counsel Fred Thompson were quizzing Hunt about "CIA domestic activities," but said he could provide no other details.

Baker's inquiry into CIA domestic activities beyond the 1972 presidential campaign appears to be outside the scope of the Senate resolution establishing the Senate select Watergate committee. That resolution authorized the committee to

"conduct an investigation and study of the extent, if any, to which illegal, improper, or unethical activities were engaged in by any persons, acting individually or in combination with others, in the presidential election of 1972, or any campaign, canvass, or other activity related to it."

Although an attempt was made on the Senate floor on Feb. 7 to enlarge the committee's scope to include the 1964 and 1968 Presidential elections, the proposed amendment was defeated.

One source close to the Senate committee said yesterday that despite the resolution's limitation of the investigation to the 1972 campaign, the argument could be made that the 1964 campaign activities are relevant to show a precedent for the 1972 bugging. In any case, this source said, it would be politically awkward for committee chairman Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.) to bar an attempt by Baker to put on Hunt's testimony if Baker decides to do so.