

White House Probed a Cuban Doctor

By Jack Anderson

The White House ordered E. Howard Hunt, its resident snoop, to conduct a secret investigation in spring, 1972, of a prominent Cuban exile physician.

The subject of the scrutiny was Dr. Enrique Huertas, whose reputation is impeccable. Yet confidential White House documents show that the undercover Hunt was turned loose on him.

The probe was directed by one of President Nixon's staff assistants, William (Mo) Marumoto, who was paid by the taxpayers to find jobs and grants for worthy Spanish-Americans.

Marumoto mentioned the investigation in a confidential May 12, 1972, memo to White House aides Charles Colson and Fred Malek. "Had Howard Hunt check out Enrique Huertas, president of the Cuban Medical Doctors in Exile," Marumoto reported cryptically. He added that Hunt had submitted a report to him.

This was a busy time for Hunt, who was running around in a silly CIA wig carrying out heavy Watergate duties against newsmen, Democrats and unsympathetic Republicans. He is under prison sentence for his role in the Watergate break-in and conspiracy.

Dr. Huertas was turned over to Hunt for investigation at about the time the Cuban physician came to Washington to visit with Organization of American States foreign ministers. He

also dropped by the White House to see Marumoto.

As Dr. Huertas recalls the encounter, he mentioned the need for a grant to build a medical facility for Cubans in Miami. Marumoto, in turn, invited Huertas to attend several receptions being held in connection with the OAS meetings.

Dr. Huertas impulsively refused to go, saying he didn't want to attend any OAS functions until he could go as a representative of a free Cuba. In retrospect, he told my associate Les Whitten ruefully: "Marumoto must have thought, 'Who is this guy, anyway?'"

As Marumoto recalls the incident, he received a call from Charles Colson's office asking about an invitation to Dr. Huertas to attend an official dinner. The Colson aide suggested that Hunt check out the physician. Marumoto called Hunt to his office, gave him the doctor's name and later received a written report. Marumoto doesn't remember what Hunt reported, except that it was summed up in one or two pages.

The discovery of the Huertas episode raises the specter of dozens of other unreported probes which may have been carried out by the White House undercover "plumbers" squad at the whim of anonymous Nixon staff assistants.

Clearly, the break-in at Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, the bugging of columnist Joe Kraft, the attempt to discredit the Kenne-

dys, the going-over the plumbers gave my own operation and other publicized "Missions Impossible" still haven't exhausted the secrets buried in the deepest files at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Footnote: Both Colson and Malek told us they cannot remember Huertas' name or Marumoto's memo.

Rebozo Favored—The President's pal C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo sold some land to the federal government in 1969 for the Biscayne National Monument. He received an over-the-appraisal settlement on one 12.4-acre parcel and a huge settlement on another 77-acre tract he owned jointly with three others. In contrast, neighboring property owners have complained to us they received single, take-it-or-leave-it offers that were far below the appraisal values.

Pentagon Privileges—We have been inundated with citizen complaints that the military brass use government cars and drivers to haul around their wives and children. Spot checks have confirmed some of the charges. For example, General Creighton Abrams, the Army chief, sends his daughter to an exclusive girls' school in Alexandria, Va. Along with some schoolmates, she is chauffeured to and from school every day in a military station wagon. At the same time, the Pentagon is cutting back fuel for essential military operations.

Fish Story—Last June, we reported that the National Aquarium was compelled to spend a tenth of its meager budget to provide exotic fish for the pampered poobahs of government. The taxpayers, for example, supplied former Vice President Spiro Agnew with Kissing Gouramis and White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler with Bleeding Heart Tetras. As a result of our column, the National Aquarium has now been authorized to phase out its door-to-door fish service. All fish-tank holders have been notified by letter that "the maintenance of existing aquariums will be discontinued."

Spanish Joy Ride—The 555th Air Force Band, a reserve unit of the Ohio Air National Guard, recently returned from a two-week tour of Spain. Although it may sound like a Spanish joy ride, it was anything but. The band members sat on wooden benches on aerial refueling planes for the trans-Atlantic trip. They rushed around in an old bus to perform good will concerts. On the way to Toledo, Spain, the band's bus caught fire and their instruments went up in flames. Down but not out, the merry military musicians borrowed instruments some from local high school students to meet their remaining commitments. Then they returned on another aerial refueler, sitting for 15 hours on wooden benches.

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