

Circle of Friends Supports Helms

by William Greider

"Helms, for instance, has been dogged by stories that somehow a closer link existed between him and E. Howard Hunt, Jr. ... including the yarn that the CIA director personally lent Hunt \$20,000 or \$30,000.* As it happens, Helms explained that in secret testimony at the time [not specified]:

"The guy was in very serious financial straits. In an organization like CIA, particularly in the clandestine side of it, anybody who gets in debt constitutes a vulnerability. I mean for a recruitment from the other side, if nothing else. All drunks are a threat. Drug people are a threat. Homosexuals are a threat. Anybody who has a really distinctive blackmail possibility.

"So the logical thing to do was to make available those institutions in the Central Intelligence Agency to help out employees who unintentionally get in some kind of financial difficulty and one of the ways of doing this is something we call the Public Service Aid Society, which contains a fund of money administered by some directors into which people give voluntarily to build up a fund so that people in a jam can get this stuff without paying interest and so forth."

Story does not say that the money Hunt needed came from this fund.

* [No date.]