

Announcer (Jim Hamblin): Howard Hunt received orders from a top White House official nearly five years ago to assassinate Jack Anderson because the syndicated columnist was publishing sensitive national security information, so says the Washington Post. Anderson has said that he found the Post report hard to believe but he had to take the story seriously because of Woodward's reputation as a reporter. The story in the Washington Post was written by Pulitzer prize winning writer Bob Woodward. The plot was cancelled at the last minute, according to the Post, but not before several days of preparation had already been carried out. Hunt telling close associates that he planned to use a poison that would not be detected during an autopsy, a poison made available to him by the CIA. Quoting reliable sources, the Post said that Hunt received the assassination order in December of '71, about seven months before the breakin at the Watergate complex. The sources said Hunt told former CIA associates the order came directly from a senior official in the White House, The sources added that on another occasion Hunt said an intermediary relayed the instructions of that senior official. The Post article said Hunt planned to obtain a poison from a former CIA physician, to use against Anderson. Sources said the poison was a variety that would leave no trace during a routine medical examination or autopsy. According to the Post, Hunt said the reason Anderson was marked for assassination was because he was publishing sensitive national security information in his daily newspaper column based on top secret documents that had come into his possession. The newspaper said it could not determine why the plot was scrubbed at the last minute,

Anderson says that although he had a hard time believing the White House actually would try to kill him, he was aware the White House considered him a major irritant. He knew that H.R. Haldeman ordered the Justice Department to investigate him in an effort to find some crime they could attack me with, says Anderson, and that a raid on his office was once discussed at the department. "But I have absolutely no reason to believe that Haldeman would order my ASSASSINATION," said Jack Anderson. KCBS news time, 12:37 (p.m.).

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