

Hunt Said to Link Nixon Aide in Plot To Kill Anderson

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—E. Howard Hunt Jr. who is serving a jail term in Florida for his role in the Watergate burglary, has told "associates" that he was asked about five years ago by a "senior" official in the Nixon White House to assassinate the syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, according to a report today in The Washington Post.

Neither Mr. Hunt nor his lawyer, William A. Snyder, would comment on the article, which was displayed across the top of Page One in The Post. Mr. Anderson said today that he did not think it was possible that anyone in the Nixon White House would have seriously suggested his murder.

The Post said that the assassination plan was alive for "several days" in December, 1971, or January, 1972, and "canceled" at the last minute. The article did not identify the White House official or give the reason for the cancellation.

In his book, "An American Life," Jeb Stuart Magruder, a former Nixon campaign aide, wrote that G. Gordon Liddy, another convicted Watergate conspirator, had taken him seriously when he offhandedly remarked, "Boy, it'd be nice to get rid of that guy [Mr. Anderson]."

Mr. Magruder, who was also involved in the Watergate scandal, wrote that his assistant realized that Mr. Liddy had taken Mr. Magruder's comment literally. Mr. Magruder wrote that he had immediately called Mr. Liddy back to his office to explain, "Gordon, I was just using a figure of speech about getting rid of Anderson."

"Well, you better watch that," answered Mr. Liddy, according to Mr. Magruder's book. The Post article said that there was no connection between the Hunt assassination plan and the Liddy incident.