

Nixon Men Plotted to Drug a Columnist

Washington

The Nixon White House made an effort in March 1972, to discredit columnist Jack Anderson by during him so he would appear incoherent during a public appearance, a Senate committee confirmed yesterday.

The committee said E. Howard Hunt, convicted in the Watergate break-in, lunched with a retired Central Intelligence Agency physician at a Washington restaurant near the White House in hopes of obtaining a hallucinogenic drug for the project.

Details of the attempt to discredit Anderson — who aroused administration ire by publishing secret White House transcripts revealing President Nixon's "tilt" in favor of Pakistan in the India-

Pakistan war of 1971 — were published by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in a special supplement to its final report.

The project was dropped after it was determined to be impractical.

The intelligence committee report denied a Washington Post report by Bob Woodward on Sept. 21, 1975, that the White House attempted to assassinate Anderson.

"The committee staff," the report said, "has found no evidence of a plan to assassinate Jack Anderson."

"However, a White House effort was made in consultation with a former CIA physician to explore means of drugging Anderson to

discredit him by rendering him incoherent before a public appearance.

"This effort apparently never proceeded beyond the planning stage."

Hunt acted, the report said, after he was summoned by presidential aide Charles Colson, whose logbook showed he met Hunt March 14, 1972.

Colson testified to the Senate committee he was asked "many times" by President Nixon to discredit Anderson although Mr. Nixon did not specifically suggest drugging.

Senate investigators also spoke with the doctor, unnamed in the report, who said on Nov. 7, 1975:

"I was asked if I could help

them provide behavior altering medication to an individual, unidentified, and in no way could I detect of whom they were speaking. I said I could not. I had retired in 1971 . . . I had no access to any kind of medicines. So I did not provide it."

Hunt testified to the investigators about the failure of the scheme:

"We almost had to have him under chemical conditions to make sure that he got a measured amount of the substance, whatever it might be, and that the timing was just right, and that he would be able to sit down or stand up at the lecture platform in apparently good condition, that at least he would be navigable to get there before he began to talk and make a

fool out of himself . . . None of these conditions pretained at all."

Hunt, who worked with convicted Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy on the project, also considered spreading a drug on the steering wheel of Anderson's car, according to the report.

The two decided this might not work in winter because Anderson would wear gloves, while in summer the moisture on his palms might prevent absorption.

They decided against breaking into Anderson's house to place a drug in a medicine bottle. They decided it would be impractical to place a pill in a cocktail because Anderson did not drink, the report said.

United Press