

2 of H. L. Hunt's Sons are Indicted

Dallas

Seven men, including Houston lawyer Percy Foreman and two sons of the late Dallas oil billionaire H.L. Hunt, have been indicted by a federal grand jury here on charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

The indictment alleges that Nelson Bunker Hunt, W. Herbert Hunt, Foreman, three Dallas lawyers and a retired Houston industrialist paid witnesses to go to prison and keep quiet about the illegal wiretapping of Hunt employees by the Hunts.

The nine-count indictment was returned Monday night, only hours before the grand jury's term expired. Yesterday, the Hunts — claiming they were discriminated against because of their conservative views — charged that the CIA infiltrated the family oil empire and used secret agents to help embezzle more than \$50 million from them.

The brothers said the new federal charges that they tried to cover up a family wiretapping scheme were a further result of an attempt by the CIA to discredit the Hunt Oil Empire. The Hunts said they held the CIA responsible for earlier federal charges they spied on aides of their late father.

The brothers said their refusal to allow the CIA to use their overseas Hunt Oil Co. affiliate for espionage led to the federal charges against them.

"After turning down the CIA, a massive embezzlement scheme involving losses of over \$50 million from the Hunt Oil Co. were uncovered," the brother said here in a news release.

"An investigation disclosed that some of the Hunt employees involved in the scheme were secret government agents," they said.

The other four men named Monday in the grand jury indictment were Ralph Shank Charles Tessmer and B.H. Timmins Jr., all Dallas lawyers, and Edward J. Hudson of Houston, retired president of Hudson Engineering Corp.

of Houston.

The indictment alleges that a prospective witness, Jon Kelly, was promised by the Hunts, Tessmer and Shank in October, 1971, and again the following month that he would be paid \$1250 for each month he spent in prison if he did not testify against the Hunts, the indictment said.

A similar offer was made in October 1971 to another witness, Patrick McCann, the indictment said.

The indictment charged that during the first two months of 1972, the Hunt brothers, Shank, Hudson and Foreman entered into an agreement that Foreman would be paid \$100,000 to keep

Kelly and a third witness, W.J. Everett, silent about the wiretapping.

Everett earlier had been offered \$800 for each month in prison in exchange for his silence, according to the indictment.

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The Hunt brothers are due back in federal court in Lubbock tomorrow for another hearing in their attempts to quash a wiretapping indictment returned against them last year. That indictment came after Kelly and McCann were ordered by a federal court to testify about who hired them to do illegal wiretapping.

The conspiracy charges carry maximum penalties of five years in prison and \$10,000 in fines for each defendant. Obstruction of justice carries a maximum of five years in prison and a \$500 fine.

Associated Press