

HUNT TRIAL HEARS OF WIRETAP DEAL

3 Men Testify 2 Brothers
Paid Them to Eavesdrop

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LUBBOCK, Tex., Sept. 22—

Three convicted wiretappers testified today that two sons of H. L. Hunt, the late billionaire, agreed to pay them \$15 an hour to eavesdrop on six employees of the Hunt Oil Company in 1969.

Patrick McCann, Jon Kelly

and W. J. Everett, former employes of the Clyde Wilson Detective Agency in Houston, were the first Government witnesses at the trial of William Herbert Hunt, 45 years old, and Nelson Bunker Hunt, 48.

The Hunts, charged with authorizing the illegal wiretaps from December, 1969, to January, 1970, maintained that they were only trying to trace \$50-million in unexplained losses. Their attorneys contended during jury selection that the Hunts had no "evil motive" and did not know they were violating Federal laws.

But Mr. Everett, former president of the private detective agency, testified that he had warned Bunker Hunt, "If we

did this and got caught, we could be in trouble criminally and civilly."

"He said they weren't concerned about that," Mr. Everett said.

He said that Bunker Hunt then "asked me if I ever knew anyone who had gone to the penitentiary or jail [for wire-tapping]."

"I told him I had no personal knowledge," Mr. Everett said.

Mr. McCann, an electronics technician, testified earlier that he not only "bugged" the six employes the Hunts suspected of embezzlement, but also taped his business discussions with the Hunts. He said that he taped his initial conversa-

tion with Bunker Hunt on the telephone and a later meeting with Herbert Hunt in a motel room in Dallas.

The first tape with Bunker Hunt was played in court for the jurors. It included instructions from Mr. Hunt to Mr. McCann to hurry up with the wiretaps, "so the trail won't get cold."

Mr. McCann testified that he and Mr. Kelly and Mr. Everett were hired by the Hunts in late November, 1969, for \$15 an hour plus \$2,850 for equipment. He said that Herbert Hunt paid him a first installment of \$2,000 in crisp \$100 bank bills at a meeting at Herbert Hunt's home in Dallas.