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Hunts' Friend Says That He Suggested Wiretaps

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LUBBOCK, Tex., Sept. 24—Kenneth Stanley Adams, owner of the Houston Oilers, a professional football team, testified today that he did not know it was illegal when he suggested to Nelson Bunker Hunt that he tap the telephones of Hunt Oil Company employes in an attempt to learn who had embezzled up to \$50-million.

Nelson Bunker Hunt, who is 49 years old, and his brother, William Herbert Hunt, 45, son of H. L. Hunt, the late billionaire, are charged with illegally tapping the telephones of six of their father's top aides from December, 1969, to January, 1970.

Mr. Adams, who also is president of the Ada Oil Company, testified that he had been a friend of Bunker Hunt since the nineteen-forties, when they attended Culver Military Academy in Indiana, and that he shared an interest in the oil and ranching businesses

with Bunker Hunt and his brother Herbert.

Mr. Adams said that, when Bunker Hunt was visiting his ranch near Houston in late 1964 or early 1965, he told Bunker how he had hired the Clyde Wilson Detective Agency in Houston to trace some embezzlement in his ranching interests.

"The private investigators came up with a lot of misconduct, but couldn't pin it down until we had a wiretap on one man," Mr. Adams testified.

He said Bunker Hunt called him several years later and asked the name of the detective agency "because he had several employes stealing large sums of money and his father was unaware of it." Mr. Adams added:

"I told him the only way to get the goodies was to put a wiretap on them and catch them in the transaction."

Mr. Adams said he did not know that eavesdropping was

illegal, and neither did Bunker Hunt.

In other testimony, Lamar Hunt, brother of the defendants and owner of the Kansas City Chiefs, another professional football team, testified that the entire family was concerned about unexplained losses in 1969 that led to the wiretaps.

His stepmother, Mrs. Ruth Hunt, also testified that she had tried to warn her husband about the embezzlement, but said he refused to believe that any of his trusted employes "could be the source of it all."