

WATERGATE CONSPIRATOR SAYS

'Don't forget Nixon misdeeds'

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Richard Nixon's return to the limelight shouldn't move the spotlight from the former president's failings, Watergate conspirator Howard Hunt says.

"As the ex-president returns slowly to the limelight it is important that the revealed flaws in his character not be ignored," Hunt said Monday in a letter to the Miami Herald. Hunt, a writer and former CIA agent, served 32 months in a federal prison for his role as a lookout in the 1972 Watergate burglary at Democratic national headquarters.

"Had Nixon admitted his responsibility for Watergate in 1972 or 1973, I suspect that Watergate's trail of broken lives would have been much shorter than it is," Hunt wrote.

People

BRIEFLY:

Wallace benefit

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — When Gov. George Wallace leaves office next year, he'll go in style.

Country music singer Barbara Mandrell will headline a benefit for the three-term governor on Jan. 6—nine days before his term ends.

Wallace's assistant press secretary, Elvin Stanton, said proceeds from the benefit will be used to buy Wallace a new luxury car.

Stanton said any money left over will be used to pay for modifications to a new home

Wallace is having built in Montgomery, and for rehabilitation and therapy equipment.

Wallace was shot in Laurel, Md., during the 1972 presidential campaign. Since then, he has been paralysed below the waist.

Hospital stay

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Bess Truman will stay at Research Hospital until she

gets stronger, a hospital spokesman says.

The 93-year-old widow of former president Harry Truman no longer has the abdominal pains that originally put her into the hospital on Nov. 20, and her high blood pressure has been controlled, the spokesman said Monday.

Mrs. Truman continues to exercise regularly with the aid of a walker, but still is reported weak.

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Eric Roberts is shown in his role in King of the Gypsies.

\$1 MILLION JOB

Instant buildup for new actor

LONDON — Kojack beware. Shakespeare is here. Here for six years, and ratings be damned. In the most ambitious and courageous undertaking in the history of television, the BBC is producing over the next six years all 37 of William Shakespeare's plays: The histories, the tragedies, the comedies, the lot.

This is to be the essential Shakespeare, speaking for all times, playing to all nations and repeatable forever.

When the plays have all been transmitted, taped copies will be made available for universities, libraries and community centres all over the world—either on a sale or rental basis.

The drive and inspiration for this vast and somewhat daunting enterprise comes from Cedric Messina, producer of the series.

For Messina, the huge task had to be taken on simply because Shakespeare, like Everest, was there.

"The BBC is the greatest broadcasting system in the world and these plays are the greatest contribution the English have made to world culture," he says.

"Since we have the facilities and the talent to make these plays permanently available to future generations, it is almost our duty to do them."

Some have disagreed.

George Meaney, head of the American trade union movement, is incensed that the Public Broadcasting System—one of the original co-producers of the series—is spending American taxpayers' dollars to pay English actors at cheap rates. He claims that American actors could perform Shakespeare just as well as their English counterparts.

That claim was greeted with a great deal of derision by the nationalistic theatre critics of this country. But because of Meaney's objections, PBS was forced to pull out of this great enterprise.

The financial slack that it left in the \$15-million bill was taken up by Time-Life Inc. and money from Texas Oil.

The English actors remained.

Because of the huge and diverse potential audience, the productions will tend to be traditional rather than modern and gimmicky.

Says Messina: "All the plays will be presented in a style true to the period in which they were set. There will be no modern dress versions or eccentric interpretations. We are relying solely on the talents of William Shakespeare, the best actors and actresses we can find and the ability of top-flight directors."

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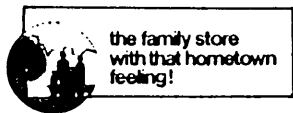
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