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Ex-CIA agent admits he used JFK 'rumors'

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Author and ex-CIA employee
Victor Marchetti admitted Friday

that key parts of his 1978 article linking E. Howard Hunt with a conspiracy to kill John F. Kennedy were based almost solely on Washington rumors Marchetti said he heard from a Penthouse magazine columnist.

The columnist, Bill Corson, later denied in a sworn deposition even talking about the rumors with Marchetti, author of *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*.

"I had no corroboration of Corson's story . . ." Marchetti testified, but added that he knew two other reporters who were checking into the same story. Marchetti didn't say whether those reporters printed the story.

Hunt is in the middle of a libel suit against the ultra-conservative Liberty Lobby, publisher of *The Spotlight* tabloid that printed Mar-

chetti's article.

In an story headlined "CIA to Nail Hunt For Kennedy Killing," Marchetti wrote that a House investigations committee had received a 1966 internal CIA memo discussing Hunt's supposed presence in Dallas.

The committee later reported that no such memo had been received, and dismissed theories of Hunt's involvement in a Kennedy plot.

Hunt, who was never called by Marchetti for comment before the article ran, has denied being in Dallas then and has produced witnesses who say he was in Washington that day.