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*A Missing Figure
In Max Hugel Affair
Phones Associates*

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Thomas McNell, Who Helped
Force CIA Resignation,
May Be Surfacing Soon

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By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

NEW YORK—One of two missing brothers, whose accusations forced the resignation of top Central Intelligence Agency official Max C. Hugel, telephoned two business associates recently and indicated that the brothers might surface soon.

Thomas McNell "talked to me for about a minute, and said (he and his brother) would come out when the time is right," Robert Blair, a New Jersey stockbroker, said in an interview yesterday. "I got the feeling he might come out within a week. He wants to line up a lawyer."

Thomas McNell is a consultant, and his brother Samuel, president of Triad Energy Corp., which reported last month that more than \$2 million in company funds was missing. Triad was formed in early 1980 to develop oil and gas properties.

The McNell brothers vanished after The Washington Post published their allegations on July 14 that Mr. Hugel, then director of CIA clandestine operations, had engaged in improper securities transactions with the brothers in the 1970s.

Mr. Hugel resigned his position following publication of the Post's article but denied any wrongdoing.

Thomas McNell also recently called Drury Gallagher, a Triad director, Mr. Blair said. Reached over the weekend at his home, Mr. Gallagher declined comment about the conversation.

According to Mr. Blair, also a former Triad director, Thomas McNell was "apologetic for what a pain this whole thing has been for me" in a phone call made Thursday. "I knew he wasn't going to tell me where he was, so I didn't ask. He's hoping the story will die down."

Mr. McNell also told Mr. Blair that he (Mr. McNell) had long suspected that his phones were being tapped, Mr. Blair said.