

By Sanford J. Ungar
Washington Post Staff Writer

BOSTON, Jan. 18—The Boston grand jury's inquiry into disclosure of the Pentagon Papers was suspended again today while a federal appellate court weighs Daniel Ellsberg's contention that evidence is being gathered here to prove charges lodged against him in Los Angeles.

Chief Judge Bailey Aldrich of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit acted on Ellsberg's emergency motion to prohibit prosecutors from quizzing witnesses here on details of Ellsberg's allegedly illegal dissemination of the secret history of the Vietnam war.

Ellsberg, who acknowledges providing the Pentagon Papers to the press but denies that his actions were illegal, has been indicted on conspiracy and other charges in Los Angeles. The government has also been investigating his conduct here.

Government lawyers, in arguments on Ellsberg's motion, denied they were abusing the grand jury process and contended that they would be entitled to use in Los Angeles any relevant information obtained by the grand jury here.

In other court action, Federal District Judge Anthony Julian canceled the grand jury subpoenas to three prospective witnesses, after finding that the Justice Department made an "insufficient" denial that they were the subject of government wiretapping.

Julian said that Noam Chomsky, professor of linguistics at MIT, Richard A. Falk, professor of international law at Princeton University, and Ralph Stavins, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, would not have to testify for the time being.

Must Explain Delay

Julian ruled that even if the government presents a satisfactory denial on wiretapping the government must still appear before another federal judge to explain its failure to meet an earlier deadline for filing the denial.

Julian's decision left open the possibility that if the gov-

ernment satisfied all requirements Chomsky, Falk and Stavins could be subpoenaed again.

A fourth witness, Samuel Popkin, assistant professor of government at Harvard, was the only one actually to enter the grand jury room today. He emerged 45 minutes later after refusing to answer several questions posed by government lawyers.

The Justice Department sought an immediate hearing on whether Popkin should be held in contempt of court, but Julian refused to convene that hearing before studying the transcript of what happened in the grand jury room.

The government impounded a notebook which Popkin was using to take notes of the questions he was asked before the grand jury.

There were these other developments in the case today:

- Lawyers for Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) announced

they would go to the Supreme Court in an effort to prevent the grand jury here from inquiring into publication of his copy of the Pentagon Papers by Beacon Press.

- The U.S. court of appeals for the first circuit refused to permit the Unitarian-Universalist Association, which owns Beacon Press, to offer arguments on whether republication of the Pentagon Papers is covered by Gravel's congressional immunity.

- The appellate court also denied Gravel's request that it reconsider and revise its Jan. 7 opinion extending congressional immunity to Leonard S. Rodberg, an aide to Gravel, but specifically excluding Beacon.

The government stated explicitly in the court papers that it seeks to identify "the participants in the transaction whereby the Pentagon Papers were obtained and published by Beacon Press."

Boston Probe Is Suspended Upon Ellsberg's Complaint

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