

# C.I.A. OFFICIALS SUMMONED TO EXPLAIN AGENCY'S ROLE IN ELLSBERG BREAK-IN PLOT

## PROSECUTORS ACT

### Issue Call After Hunt Testifies He Utilized Agency Equipment

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 5—The Federal prosecutors in the Watergate case have summoned officials of the Central Intelligence Agency to discuss that agency's role in the plot to break into the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, sources close to the case said today.

The prosecutors asked the intelligence officials to appear, the sources said, after E. Howard Hunt Jr. told a Federal grand jury that he had utilized C.I.A. equipment, including a "safehouse" in Washington used by the agency's clandestine service, to prepare for the burglary of the Los Angeles office of Dr. Lewis Fielding.

#### 'No Advance Notice'

One Federal source described the agency's participation in the domestic operation as "against the law." The names of the officials who will appear were not known. The agency's director at the time, Richard Helms, is now Ambassador to Iran.

Lawrence Houston, general counsel of the C.I.A., said this afternoon, "We supplied all the information on our involvement in this to the Department of Justice some time back."

Mr. Houston repeated what other spokesmen said, "We had no prior knowledge of the Watergate or the break-in to the Ellsberg psychiatrist's office."

But he declined to comment on how the C.I.A. aid on the Los Angeles burglary had been requested, or at what level of the agency command it had been granted.

#### Wide-Ranging Statute

The possible involvement of the C.I.A. in any criminal aspects of the break-in of the Los Angeles psychiatrist's office poses what some lawyers here depicted as a rare legal situation.

Under the National Security Act of 1947, which set up the agency, the agency is expressly barred from having any "police, subpoena, law-enforcement powers or internal security functions."

The 1947 act also authorizes the agency to protect "intelli-

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gence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure"—an authority that seems relevant to what the Government viewed in June, 1971, as the illegal theft and publication of the Pentagon papers.

Yet one former C.I.A. lawyer said today that the protection authority was a "pretty broad-ranging statute that I don't think has ever really been interpreted by the courts.

"Personnel have sued the agency," he said. "But a grand jury investigation against agency employes—whew!—that's something."

The break-in, which took place in the fall of 1971, three months after publication of the Pentagon papers, was planned by members of the "plumber" team, set up under orders of President Nixon in an attempt to determine who was responsible for aiding Dr. Ellsberg.

Earlier this week, the Federal judge in the Ellsberg case released an F.B.I. report in which John D. Ehrlichman, President Nixon's former chief domestic

adviser, was quoted as saying that he had set up the group after Mr. Nixon had "asked him to make inquiries independent of concurrent F.B.I. investigations which had been made relating to the leak of the Pentagon papers."

Mr. Ehrlichman assigned control of that task to Egil Krogh Jr., one of his chief aides, and David Young, a member of the National Security staff who was lent to the project by Henry A. Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security affairs.

Hunt, who retired in 1970 after 20 years in the C.I.A., and G. Gordon Liddy, a former F.B.I. investigator, were recruited by Mr. Krogh in mid-summer of 1971.

Mr. Krogh was reported to have admitted full responsibility for the burglary in an affidavit sent yesterday to the Ellsberg court in Los Angeles. He specifically acknowledged in the document that he had general supervisory responsibility for the break-in.

In a brief conversation earlier this week, Mr. Krogh said that he and his colleagues on the

"plumbers" team had been provided highly classified information indicating that Dr. Ellsberg was planning to leak more Pentagon files to an "enemy embassy." He did not amplify on the remark, and other sources connected with the operation described his statement as untrue.

"This was a typically Liddy-Hunt operation," another source close to the case said. "Lots of risks and no benefits."

Hunt told the grand jury that the raid on the psychiatrist's office had turned up no valuable information.

Mr. Young resigned from his job three weeks ago.

Another member of the "plumbers" operation said in an interview today that Liddy and Hunt had authorized the installation of a scrambler telephone, ordinarily used in intelligence to protect classified information in the event of wire-tapping, shortly after joining the operation. Hunt used the red scrambler telephone, this source said, for calling the C.I.A. and other intelligence agencies.

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