

Hill to Probe CIA Link To Break-In

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A major flurry of investigative activity is being launched on Capitol Hill into the Central Intelligence Agency's alleged role in the burglary of the office of the psychiatrist who treated Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg.

Chairmen of three separate Senate and House panels which oversee CIA operations announced yesterday that they would immediately begin inquiries into the episode.

Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), chairman of an Armed Services subcommittee on the CIA, disclosed that the agency's director, James R. Schlesinger, confirmed to him yesterday that Marine Corps Commandant Robert E. Cushman Jr. authorized use of CIA equipment in the Ellsberg burglary case.

The equipment was used by the Watergate break-in team headed by former CIA agents E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy to burglarize the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding, Ellsberg's psychiatrist, in connection with the White House investigation of the Pentagon Papers case during 1971.

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Nedzi said Schlesinger confirmed to him, in a telephone conversation yesterday, that the CIA equipment was issued to Liddy and Hunt "and that the order emanated from Gen. Cushman." The role of Cushman, who was at the time of the incident deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was disclosed yesterday by The New York Times.

The Michigan Democrat said Schlesinger had also ordered a wholesale review within the agency of the extent of its involvement in the Watergate case and the Ellsberg investigation.

One high-ranking CIA official said the disclosure of the agency's role in the operations of the Hunt-Liddy team under White House direction came as a severe jolt to institutional morale at CIA's Langley, Va., headquarters.

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Io.), chairman of the Senate's joint CIA oversight committee, announced tersely of the new development: "We plan to look into it. If true, I don't like it."

Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), who heads a separate Appropriations subcommittee on operations, said he is calling in top CIA witnesses on Wednesday to testify about the agency's involvement in the Pentagon Papers case.

Lead-off witnesses, he said, will be Schlesinger and Dr. Bernard Melloy, chief of the CIA's psychiatry division. Melloy was reportedly ordered by his superiors over his own objections to provide the White House with a psychiatrist profile of Ellsberg.

McClellan announced that former CIA Director Richard Helms, who headed the agency at the time of the Pentagon Papers investigation, will be called to testify later along with Cushman.

The 1947 statute which created the CIA decreed that the agency should "have no police, subpoena, law-enforcement powers or internal security functions," McClellan noted. The statute did, however, assign responsibility to the agency "for protecting internal security functions."

The basic responsibility for domestic surveillance against espionage and sabotage, including breaches of national intelligence, is that of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Nedzi said that his Armed Services subcommittee on the CIA will begin hearing witnesses on Thursday "to find out what they know about the situation."

He said he, too, will ask for Helms' return from Iran if the former director is personally implicated in the Pentagon Papers break-in. "If I had to make a guess," he said, "this was not too widely known in the agency."