

C.I.A. HEAD ADMITS 'ILL-ADVISED ACT'

Schlesinger Calls Agency 'Insufficiently Cautious' in Role in Ellsberg Case

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By MARJORIE HUNTER

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WASHINGTON, May 9—The head of the Central Intelligence Agency said today that the agency had been "insufficiently cautious" in providing materials to a White House aide involved in the burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

"It was an ill-advised act," said James R. Schlesinger, who was named Director of Central Intelligence earlier this year.

Mr. Schlesinger's comments came as he emerged from a closed hearing being conducted by a Senate Appropriations subcommittee inquiring into the agency's involvement in the Pentagon papers case.

In his testimony, made available later by the subcommittee, Mr. Schlesinger confirmed earlier reports that the request for agency assistance was made in the summer of 1971 by John D. Ehrlichman, a key Presidential adviser who resigned just last week.

Mr. Schlesinger testified that it was Mr. Ehrlichman who

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had telephoned Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., at that time deputy director of the C.I.A. and now commandant of the Marine Corps, requesting agency assistance for E. Howard Hunt Jr., a White House aide who has confessed taking part in the burglary of the psychiatrist's office.

Senator John L. McClellan, Democrat of Arkansas and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee investigating C.I.A. involvement, said the panel "may very well need Mr. Ehrlichman's testimony."

Senator McClellan also said the subcommittee believed it essential to hear from both Richard Helms, now Ambassador to Iran but director of the agency at the time of the burglary, and from General Cushman.

General Cushman is scheduled to testify Friday before a Senate Armed Services subcommittee in the Pentagon papers case.

Two Officials Identified

Meanwhile, two high State Department officials were identified today as the men who had authorized Hunt to read and copy 240 highly classified documents concerning the Vietnam war in September, 1971.

A State Department spokesman said that William Macomber, then Deputy Under Secretary of State for Management, and J. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs, had specifically authorized Hunt to review the diplomatic cables. Mr. Macomber is now Ambassador to Turkey.

Charles W. Bray, the spokesman for the State Department, said that the authorization had been given at the request of Egil Krogh Jr. and David R. Young Jr., at that time White House aides.

State Department Satisfied

Both Mr. Krogh and Mr. Young have been implicated in the break-in at the psychiatrist's office. Hunt has testified that he forged cables aimed at linking President Kennedy to the assassination in 1963 of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.

Mr. Bray said today that the White House aides, in asking to see the classified materials, had said an investigation was being made into the leaking of the Pentagon papers.

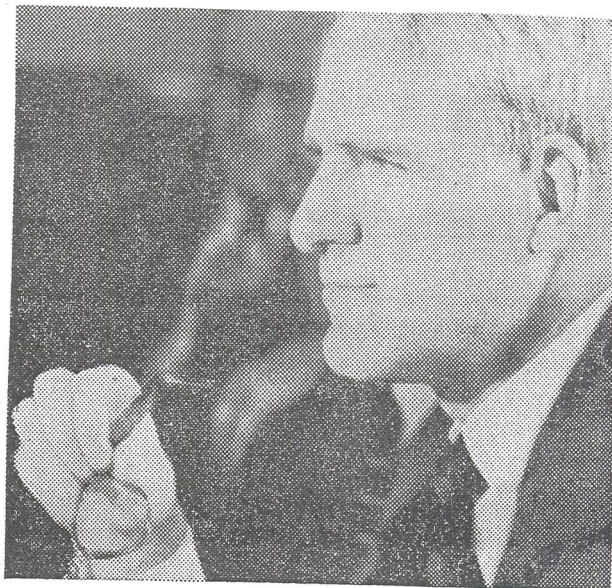
Mr. Bray said that the State Department was satisfied that its response to requests from the White House had been entirely proper.

In another development today, a Pentagon spokesman, Jerry W. Friedheim, said the Defense Department had turned down Hunt's request for classified documents connected with the Pentagon papers in the late summer of 1971.

Mr. Friedheim said the Hunt request had been rejected on the ground that the request should have come from the Justice Department, not a White House aide.

Visit to General

Mr. Schlesinger testified today in closed session that on July 22, 1971, Hunt visited General Cushman at the C.I.A. building, told him he had been as-



Associated Press

James R. Schlesinger, newly designated Director of Central Intelligence, at Senate subcommittee session.

signed "a highly sensitive mission by the White House to visit and elicit information from an individual whose ideology he was not entirely sure of . . ."

Mr. Schlesinger said that agency records indicate that in the course of the conversation "Mr. Hunt referred to Mr. Ehrlichman by name and General Cushman acknowledged an earlier call from Mr. Ehrlichman to him."

On July 23, 1971, according to Mr. Schlesinger, General Cushman directed that the "appropriate technical services" be given to Hunt. These included, he said, a Social Security card, driver's license, several association membership cards, in the name of "Edward Joseph Warren," along with a wig, glasses and a speech alteration device.

Later, according to Mr. Schlesinger, Hunt was furnished with a tape recorder and a camera disguised in a tobacco pouch and, still later, obtained from the C.I.A. for an associate, G. Gordon Liddy, a wig and glasses and alias documents.

Sometime later, Mr. Schlesinger continued, some C.I.A. officials became "increasingly concerned" over Hunt's repeat-

ed requests for assistance. He said that on Aug. 21, 1971, General Cushman telephoned Mr. Ehrlichman at the White House and said that further assistance could not be given and that "Mr. Ehrlichman agreed."

Since the end of August, 1971, according to Mr. Schlesinger, the C.I.A.'s technical services division has not had further association with Hunt. He noted that break-in at the psychiatrist's office took place in early September, 1971.

Gray Got Information

Mr. Schlesinger testified that these events were outlined to Patrick Gray 3d, at that time acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in July, 1972, and that more detailed materials were reviewed by Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen on Oct. 24, 1972.

Mr. Schlesinger said that the C.I.A. "is aware that this material was reviewed on 27 Nov., 1972" by Earl J. Silbert, principal Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and that additional submissions were made to Mr. Petersen on Dec. 21, 1972.

Mr. Schlesinger also testified that the C.I.A.'s office of Medical Services had prepared and forwarded to the White House two "indirect personality assessments" of Dr. Ellsberg, at the request of Mr. Young.

This information, he said, was not included in that furnished by Justice Department officials last fall because those who had prepared the material had been unaware of this development.

The new C.I.A. chief said that in July of 1971, Mr. Helms, the C.I.A. director at the time, instructed officers of the agency to cooperate with Mr. Young in preparation of the psychological profile on Dr. Ellsberg.

It was the first time Mr. Helms has been named specifically in the C.I.A.'s involvement in the controversy over the Pentagon papers.

Mr. Schlesinger assured the McClellan subcommittee today that the C.I.A. had not been aware of the details of Hunt's activities involving the burglary of the psychiatrist's office.

"The agency's impression was that Mr. Hunt was engaged in an activity related to identifying and closing off the security leaks that were so much a preoccupation of the Government at the time," Mr. Schlesinger said.

Mr. Schlesinger also testified that the C.I.A.'s involvement in preparing a psychological profile on Dr. Ellsberg "lies beyond the normal activities of the agency" and said he had instructed the staff not to repeat such an action.

He said that he had called for a review of all agency activities and "the termination of any which might be con-

sidered outside its legitimate charter."

He said that he had asked each employe and had invited every former employe to submit to him any cases they may question.

"I am determined that the agency will not engage in activities outside of its charter but will concentrate its energies on its important intelligence mission," he said.

Later, as he emerged from the closed subcommittee session, Mr. Schlesinger casually strolled down a corridor, puffing a pipe and trying in vain to find an exit to escape newsmen crowded around him.

Asked if he felt that the C.I.A. had violated the 1947 National Security Act by giving materials and assistance to Hunt, Mr. Schlesinger replied quickly: "I'm not a lawyer, but I would judge it was not vio-

lated."

Asked when he had first found out that the C.I.A. had been involved in preparing a psychological profile on Dr. Ellsberg, he replied: "Last Wednesday, when certain materials were sent to me from the executive office [of the President] to Langley [the C.I.A. headquarters]."

Asked if he thought that General Cushman had been insufficiently cautious in providing the materials to Hunt, Mr. Schlesinger paused a moment and then said: "I think it was more widely spread than that." He did not elaborate.

The McClellan subcommittee also began hearing testimony today from Dr. John R. Tietjen, director of medical services for the C.I.A., and from Dr. Bernard Melloy, chief of the C.I.A.'s psychiatric division. They will resume testimony tomorrow morning.

Dr. Melloy is said to have prepared the C.I.A.'s psychological profile on Dr. Ellsberg.