

Ehrlichman, Helms Cited By CIA Chief

Concedes Role Of Agency in Ellsberg Case

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Former White House adviser John Ehrlichman paved the way for Central Intelligence Agency cooperation with E. Howard Hunt that ended in the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in 1971.

CIA Director James L. Schlesinger made this statement to a Senate investigating subcommittee yesterday and described the agency's role in the Ellsberg case as an "ill-advised act."

Schlesinger also disclosed that former CIA director Richard M. Helms personally instructed officers of the agency to assist in the preparation of a psychiatric profile on Pentagon Papers defendant Ellsberg during the White House investigation of intelligence security leaks in 1971.

It was the first time that Helms, who was replaced by Schlesinger early this year, figured by name in the growing controversy over CIA involvement in the Pentagon Papers case and its dealings with Hunt, a member of the Watergate bugging team.

The investigating subcommittee, headed by Sen. John L. McClellan, intends to take testimony from Helms, who is now serving as Ambassador to Iran.

Schlesinger stressed that the CIA at the time of the incident "had no awareness of the details of Mr. Hunt's activities" and was under the impression "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."

He acknowledged, though, that the CIA was "insufficiently cautious in the initiation of its assistance to Mr.

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Hunt." When agency officials began to realize that the CIA was going "beyond its charter" in dealing with Hunt the technical assistance was cut off, said Schlesinger.

The CIA's involvement in the Ellsberg affair began with a phone call from Ehrlichman to the then CIA deputy director, Gen. Robert E. Cushman, in July, 1971. Ehrlichman advised Cushman that Hunt had been appointed as a White House security consultant, Schlesinger said.

Hunt visited Cushman at the CIA's Langley, Va., headquarters on July 22, according to Schlesinger, and said "he had been charged with a highly sensitive mission by the White House to visit and elicit information from an individual whose ideology he was not entirely sure of . . ."

Hunt stressed to Cushman that "he wanted the matter to be held as closely as possible and that he would like to meet the agency people in an agency safehouse," Schlesinger related.

"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," the CIA director told the McClellan investigating panel.

Cushman, who is now Marine commandant, authorized Hunt to get alias documents, including a Social Security card, drivers license and several association membership cards as well as a speech altering device, a commercial tape recorder concealed in a typewriter case, a Tessina camera concealed in a tobacco pouch and a wig-and-glasses disguise kit for Hunt's associate, G. Gordon Liddy.

Cushman has cut short a current tour of Europe and is due back in Washington today to testify on his role in the affair.

Ehrlichman has testified to FBI interviewers that he didn't learn of the Ellsberg burglary until after it hap-

pened. His deputy at the White House, Egil Krogh, has accepted full responsibility for the break-in and said that Ehrlichman, upon learning about the incident, told Krogh he had exceeded his instructions. Krogh resigned yesterday from his most recent job as under Secretary of Transportation. Ehrlichman, said Krogh, did authorize unspecified "cover activities" in advance of the break-in.

In his appearance before the subcommittee, Schlesinger said the CIA's participation in the preparation of a profile of an American citizen (Ellsberg) under these circumstances lies beyond the normal activity of the agency. It shall not be repeated."

The CIA's legislative charter, the National Security Act of 1947, decrees that ". . . the Agency shall have no police, subpoena, law enforcement powers or internal security functions . . ." Internal security, espionage and sabotage is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In his statement to the investigating senators, Schlesinger said, "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."

Schlesinger said he gave former FBI Acting Director L. Patrick Gray III an account of the CIA's involvement with Hunt on the Ellsberg case by letter on July 5 and 7, 1972 and in a meeting on July 28. Outgoing Attorney General Richard Kleindienst and Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen also reviewed the reports the following October. The chief U.S. attorney for the district, Earl Silbert, also was briefed on the incident during the same period.

One of the ironies of the case is that despite the elaborate preparations for the break-in by Hunt and Liddy as well as the massive embarrassment to the CIA that ensued, the 1971 mission failed to disclose any information on Ellsberg.

In another development yesterday a memorandum prepared by convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. was disclosed. It charged that he was twice pressured before his trial to claim that he and his colleagues were on a covert CIA mission at the time of the Watergate break-in.

McCord said the pressures were relayed to him through his former attorney, Gerald Alch of Boston. The document did not say who initiated the proposal, which McCord said was designed to take the onus for the incident away from the Committee for the Re-election of the President.