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GOOD MORNING!

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Heywood Brown

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Missing Wiretap Files In Ehrlichman's Safe

WASHINGTON (AP) — John D. Ehrlichman's White House safe contained Daniel Ellsberg's and 16 other missing wiretap files, it was disclosed Monday by acting FBI Director William D. Ruckelshaus. He said he "had to arm wrestle with the Secret Service" to get them.

The startling revelation was made as the White House worried publicly about the effect of televised Senate hearings on

Watergate legal processes and a judge ordered John W. Dean III's potentially explosive papers turned over to government and Senate investigators.

Meanwhile, Elliot L. Richardson was ready to name a special prosecutor from a list of four names and there was testimony on Capitol Hill that Ehrlichman, H. R. Haldeman and Dean tried to involve the CIA in covert activities other than

the burglary of Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

The whereabouts of the Ellsberg wiretaps had been a mystery until Ruckelshaus' disclosure. The missing files were a major factor last week in the dismissal of all charges against Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the Pentagon Papers trial in Los Angeles.

Ruckelshaus said Robert Mardian, former assistant attorney general, suggested the missing files might be in Ehrlichman's office. Ehrlichman resigned as President Nixon's principal domestic adviser April 30 after White House involvement in the Watergate affair became known.

Mardian claimed former FBI Asst. Director W. C. Sullivan had removed the files from the FBI, Ruckelshaus said, because he felt that former Director J. Edgar Hoover "might use the records in some manner against the attorney general or the President."

Ruckelshaus said Sullivan "does not affirm" Mardian's version.

He said notations by Hoover indicated that then-Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell later told Hoover the files had been destroyed. Mitchell has denied making such a statement.

The subjects of the wiretaps, except for Ellsberg's friend Morton Halperin, were not named by the acting FBI director. He said they included 12 other government officials and four newsmen.

All the taps had been placed after President Nixon and his national security adviser Henry Kissinger had aired concern to the FBI that leaks to news media could imperil negotiations on the war and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.

But he said a preliminary look confirmed no such dangers and that none of the individuals who were tapped had been deprived of their government posts or prosecuted, except for Ellsberg.

Ruckelshaus said he went personally to the White House Saturday for the files and at one point had to arm wrestle with the Secret Service for them. The FBI guarded the Dean-Ehrlichman and Haldeman offices after their resignation, but the job later was taken over by the Secret Service.

Ellsberg is scheduled to testify Wednesday before a Senate subcommittee on government secrecy.

Before the FBI statement presidential press secretary

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FILES

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Ronald L. Ziegler said there is considerable concern that the Senate hearings, scheduled to begin Thursday, might interfere with the work of the grand jury which has been meeting since February.

"I don't know what can be done about it," Ziegler said when asked what the Senate committee should do. He said the White House may have expressed its reservations directly to the panel chaired by Sen. Sam J. Ervin, D-N.C.

Haldeman testified before the grand jury Monday.