

Dennis Levitt, Pacifica Radio, reporting on Pentagon Papers trial from Federal Courthouse, Los Angeles:

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The defense is demanding an immediate hearing into the matter [break-in at Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office] instead of simply a government investigation. Judge Matt Byrne has not granted the hearing and instead seems to be leaning towards sworn affidavits from the following people: Mitchell, Erhlichman, Petersen, Colson, Kleindienst, Gray, Hunt, Liddy, Dean, Silbert and Segretti. The defense feels this is not enough and continues to press for a full hearing with subpoena powers for tomorrow, although this has lately been turned down. They point out that this morning the government had no information about their investigation, whereas the defense turned up a great deal concerning the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office.

It seems that Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, a Dr. Felding, was visited twice by the FBI less than two months before his office was burglarized. The FBI asked questions about Ellsberg, but following his professional ethics, Felding refused to divulge any information. Then, less than two months later, on September 4th, 1974, Felding's office was burglarized, this according to the official records of the Beverly Hills police department.

Further, the defense interviewed a Maria Juarez Martinez. She is a Chicana cleaning woman at the doctor's office. She says that two men wearing suits, who spoke fluent Spanish with a Cuban accent, entered the doctor's office on the night of the burglary. Her affidavit was corroborated with that of another cleaning worker who spoke fluent Spanish.

While the defense came up with this, the government had no information on their investigation. Leonard Weinglass said - quote - "Because of the nature of Watergate, because of the history of this case, we must put the people on the stand."

At this point it's interesting to note that the defense had previously asked for an investigation into the fact, according to them, that Hunt and Liddy were part of the prosecutorial investigating team. The judge denied

that motion at the time as [sic] out of hand.

There still could be more breaks late today. The additional memos should be released later on. The first page, released last Friday [27 Apr] said that Hunt and Liddy had burglarized the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Of the additional memos to be released, one is from Watergate prosecutor Earl Silbert to Assistant Attorney General Petersen. Another is from former Attorney General Kleindienst and it is to his assistant, Henry Petersen.

And finally, in a bit of courtroom theater, someone set up a line of dominoes on the prosecutor's table this morning. The first one was labelled Government Prosecutor David Nissen, and it included many of those named in the Watergate investigation, and it ended with Richard Nixon.

[End.]