

Ellsberg Testifies at L.A. Probe

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LOS ANGELES, June 5 — Daniel Ellsberg and his former psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding, were the principal witnesses today in the opening session of a Los Angeles County grand jury inquiry into the burglary of Dr. Fielding's Beverly Hills office in September 1971.

While the line of questioning was not disclosed, it was apparent the grand jury was interested in knowing what, if anything, was taken from the office and at what level of the White House there was advance knowledge of the burglary.

It was disclosure of the burglary in April that damaged the government's case against Ellsberg and Anthony Russo Jr. and prompted federal Judge W. Matt Byrne Jr. to end the trial. Documents made available through the court at the time revealed an elaborate, CIA-assisted burglary scheme directed by the special White House "plumbers" unit created at President Nixon's direction.

The aim, apparently, was to develop information about Ellsberg that would make him more "prosecutable." When the break-in occurred, Ellsberg had been indicted on charges of theft and violations of the espionage act for copying and disclosing the secret Pentagon Papers.

Four of the principals in the burglary — E. Howard Hunt Jr., Bernard Barker, Eugenio Martnax and Felipe De Diego — have been

granted immunity in the case, and will testify on Wednesday. Should the grand jury indict — for conspiracy to commit burglary — the indictments would be aimed mainly at White House aides Egil Krogh, David Young and, possibly, John D. Ehrlichman, the President's chief domestic adviser until he resigned last month in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

Krogh and Young have been invited to testify. Ehrlichman's attorney here, Joseph Ball, said Ehrlichman will testify Friday. He said the former aide would not be granted immunity.

Ellsberg told reporters outside the grand jury room today that there were documents in his name in Fielding's office. He said "it was a fair guess" that the burglars photographed some of his records.

However, Hunt testified before a federal grand jury in Washington, D.C., several weeks ago that the burglars found nothing relating to Ellsberg. Then, in testimony before the Senate Watergate committee, Barker said that a notebook containing Ellsberg's name had been photographed by the burglars.

Another contradiction that will concern the grand jury involves whether Ehrlichman knew in advance about the burglary plan. Marine Corps Commandant Robert Cushman said last week Ehrlichman had called him in July of 1971, when Cushman was deputy director of the CIA, asking for technical assistance for a project involving Hunt.

But Ehrlichman later last week reportedly told the Senate committee in executive session that he had not "the faintest recollection" of asking help from the CIA. He has said previously that he did not know about the burglary until after it happened.