

# Leak of Ellsberg's Psychiatric Files Reportedly Planned by Aides of Nixon

8/11/73  
By JOHN M. CREWDSON

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 31—De-  
te assertions by President  
on and some of his top  
as that Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's  
chiatric records were sought  
y to assist a national secur-  
investigation, some key  
res in the White House in-  
ded to leak the confidential  
erial to the press to dis-  
lit Dr. Ellsberg and damage  
"image," according to  
rces familiar with the opera-

ohn D. Ehrlichman, Mr.  
on's former chief domestic  
iser, told the Senate Water-  
e investigating committee  
week that he approved two  
rs ago a "covert" attempt  
btain Dr. Ellsberg's psychia-  
history to help the White  
se "crack what was at that  
nent the largest raid on top  
ret documents that had ever  
n made in the history of this  
ernment."

ie referred to the release to  
press by Dr. Ellsberg in  
y 1971 of most of the classi-  
Pentagon papers study of  
Vietnam war.

Mr. Ehrlichman, who re-  
ned from the White House  
ril 30, testified that the ma-  
ial had been needed for a  
chiatric "profile" of Dr. Ells-  
g, a former Defense Depart-  
nt and Rand Corporation of-  
al, to help determine what  
motives had been for re-  
sing the documents, whether  
had acted alone or as part  
a group, and what he might  
next.

## "Not for Gossip"

"This is not simply an effort  
pick up gossip," he added.  
However, a memorandum  
itten to Mr. Ehrlichman on  
ig. 26, 1971, and initialed by  
m shows that some in the  
hite House hoped to use data  
thered by what was labeled  
unt-Liddy Project Number  
to create a "negative press  
age" for Dr. Ellsberg by leak-  
g the information to the press  
ough the House Armed Serv-  
s Committee.

enate sources and others  
irmed today that the  
nt-Liddy Project Number  
mentioned by David R.  
g, the author of the Aug.  
971, memorandum, was a  
ence to the attempt a week  
to obtain Dr. Ellsberg's

from the office of a Los  
les psychiatrist who had  
ed him for two years.

Young, who was then  
mber of the White House  
nbers" unit investigating  
elease of the Pentagon  
rs, wrote that if the "Hunt-  
y Project" were successful,  
ould be "absolutely essen-  
to have an over-all game  
developed for its use in  
nction with the Congres-  
l Investigation."

Big to be Undermined'  
he "situation being attack-  
he told Mr. Ehrlichman,

was "too big to be undermined  
by planted leaks among the  
friendly press," and he suggest-  
ed that "if there is to be any  
damaging of Ellsberg's image  
and those associated with him,  
it will therefore be necessary  
to fold in the press planting  
with the Congressional investi-  
gation."

The conduit for the confid-  
ential information on Dr. Ells-  
berg was to have been Charles  
W. Colson, at the time a special  
counsel to President Nixon, ac-  
cording to the Young memoran-  
dum.

"I mentioned these points to  
Colson earlier this week, and  
his reply was that we should  
just leave it to him and he  
would take care of getting the  
information out," the document  
said.

A source close to Mr. Colson,  
who has admitted raising  
\$5,000 from nongovernment  
sources to finance the Ellsberg  
operation confirmed that "Col-  
son was supposed to leak" the

Ellsberg, information to the  
press once it was secured by  
the plumbers' team, which was  
headed by G. Gordon Liddy,  
who was later convicted in the  
Watergate wiretapping case,  
and E. Howard Hunt Jr., who  
pleaded guilty in that case.

"If this guy was 'flake,' they  
wanted to use it to discredit  
him," the source said. But he  
added that Mr. Colson had not  
known that the money he  
raised would be used to finance  
a burglary at the office of the  
psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis I. Field-  
ing, who had earlier refused to  
be interviewed by agents of  
the Federal Bureau of Inves-  
tigation.

Mr. Ehrlichman told the Se-  
nate committee last week that  
he also had not known that  
the burglary would take place,  
and that he had expected Hunt  
and Liddy to use legal under-  
cover methods to obtain the  
files, which the burglars were  
ing's office.

unable to locate in Dr. Field-