

Anti-War Vets Burglarized Twice

By Jack Anderson

The anti-war veterans, high on the White House "enemies" list, were mysteriously burglarized twice at a time when the Watergate break-in teams were their busiest.

The victims of the burglaries were the rambunctious Vietnam Veterans Against the War, who had incensed the Nixon administration with their militant protests. Their leaders face trial soon on charges of plotting to disrupt the 1972 Republican convention in Miami Beach.

The anti-war veterans came under close FBI scrutiny in 1970. FBI agent Claude Meadow, one of the probers, confided to a Nixon youth worker that orders were out to "nail" the leaders. The Nixon workers, Mike Carr, now an aide to Sen. Ed Gurney, (R-Fla.), confirmed that he "got the impression" from talking to the FBI agent that "pressure was being put on to nail the radical vets." Meadow refused comment.

By fall of 1971, the obstreperous vets, with ex-Marine Sgt. Scott Camil in the forefront, were making headlines. In one protest, Camil scattered the nine medals he earned in Vietnam over the White House lawn.

Thanksgiving Break-In

Not long afterward, on Thanksgiving Day, 1971, someone broke into Camil's home

which doubles as Vets Headquarters, according to Gainesville police records. Three locks were cut to get into his bedroom closet.

Camil told the police nothing was missing from the break-in, but later, he told us in a signed statement: "I checked my desk and found that my membership lists for the regions were gone, also testimony sheets from the Vets, concerning what they did and saw in Vietnam. Also missing were background questionnaires that are filled out by the membership."

Less than a month later, Gainesville police records show the anti-war veterans' headquarters were hit again. This time, four of their rifles were stolen from a rack.

Then Camil was suddenly engulfed in a flood of state and federal criminal charges. Florida charged him with kidnaping and dope violations. The federal government charged him with conspiring to wreck the GOP convention and possession of explosives.

Lawyer Burglarized

Camil retained an activist lawyer, Carol Scott. In July, 1972, her office, too, was burglarized and her Camil files stolen. To compound the mystery, the FBI has now admitted it possessed a documentary film stolen recently from a Jacksonville, Fla., Vietnam Veteran leader.

The raft of burglaries against the Vets are suspi-

ciously like the break-ins at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in 1971 and the two Watergate break-ins of 1972, all now admitted by members of the White House burglary teams.

Lawyers for Howard Hunt, the mastermind of the Watergate and Ellsberg psychiatrist break-ins told us Hunt "emphatically and unequivocally denies involvement in the Vietnam Vets break-in."

And President Nixon himself denied on May 22 that his plan to permit break-ins on radical groups had ever been put into operation.

Billy Graham's Blessing: As evidence that the Nixon administration is determined to avoid any more scandals, the new general counsel for the Securities and Exchange Commission was recommended and vouched for by the President's spiritual adviser, evangelist Billy Graham.

Indeed, the four SEC commissioners were so confident of the new general counsel's integrity that they took the highly unusual step of accepting him without so much as an interview.

He is Lawrence Nerheim, whose Minneapolis law firm has represented Billy Graham's multi-million-dollar religious empire for 12 years. Nerheim has also held key posts in the Graham organization.

With the evangelist's blessing as his main credential, Nerheim was interviewed by

SEC Chairman Bradford Cook shortly before the embattled Cook resigned under fire. He had been accused of meddling in the government's case against millionaire financier Robert Vesco.

Despite the cloud over his departure, Cook's word apparently still carried weight inside SEC. The senior commissioner, Hugh Owens, has recounted the circumstances surrounding Nerheim's appointment in an internal memorandum.

"On Friday, May 18, 1973, two days after (Cook's) resignation," wrote Owens, Cook called him about the Nerheim appointment. "Mr. Cook told me . . . that he had had a personal interview with Mr. Nerheim and had been very much impressed by his demeanor in general and his knowledge of the securities laws and the workings and activities of this commission."

Owens then contacted his three fellow commissioners by telephone and found they were "all in agreement, individually and collectively, that Mr. Nerheim was an eminently qualified man . . ."

Commissioner Owens was aware, he wrote, "that the White House personnel office had given its approval to the appointment." Lawrence Nerheim, in other words, waltzed into the general counsel's office on the word of Billy Graham and Bradford Cook.