

The Ellsberg Question

by Peter Shrag

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Was Dr. Ellsberg, then, a focus for the Administration's paranoia about leaks, conspiracies and foreign agents, or was he (in addition, if not instead, a major political opportunity for the White House?

More important, was there a conscious decision somewhere in the Government to allow him to proceed with the copying and distribution of the documents ~~for~~ until more important figures could be implicated in the "conspiracy"?

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As the trials and inquiries of the coming months progress, the country may yet discover whether Dr. Ellsberg was in fact simply a protagonist, or whether he had once been marked as the victim in a political scheme as perverse as any ever contemplated in Vietnam.