

Ex-CIA Chief Tells Senators Coverup Pressure

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Perhaps the most compelling part of Helms' testimony [before Senate Watergate committee 2 Aug] was his public intimation, in reply to several questions, that he had been forced to resign from the CIA after having declined to assist on matters related to Watergate.

Asked if he had considered resigning, he said, "I thought I could take care of the agency better if I stayed where I was."

Helms said that last November 20, President Nixon had told him that he wanted to "make a change" at the agency and wished Helms, who was nearing retirement age of 60, to assume a diplomatic post.

"You did not have any impression that you were being pushed out?" asked Senator Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.).

"Well, it was not put to me that way, anyway," Helms replied.

SFChronicle [NYTimes] 3 Aug 73 - from story by Marjorie Hunter, "Young Reportedly Refused to Accuse Ehrlichman in Raid on Doctor's Office": Mr. Helms said that the C.I.A. had prepared two profiles on Dr. Ellsberg. The first was considered inadequate by the White House. The final one, Mr. Helms said, was delivered to the White House on Nov. 12, 1971. [Testimony by Helms before Senate Foreign Relations Committee "in May," open session.]