

Break-ins, Pressure On Anti-War Vets



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.

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 to "nail" the leaders. The Nixon workers, Mike Carr, now an aide to Senator Ed Gurney (Rep.-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.

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BY FALL OF 1971, the obstreperous vets, with ex-Marine Sergeant Scott Camil in the forefront, were making headlines.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1971, someone broke into Camil's home which doubles as vets headquarters, according to Gainesville police records.

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."

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.

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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 file stolen recently from a Jacksonville, Fla., Vietnam veteran leader.

The raft of burglaries against the vets are suspiciously 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.