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IMMUNITY HINTED IN COAST INQUIRY

Testimony Reported Sought
Against Ehrlichman

By STEVEN V. ROBERTS
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LOS ANGELES, May 15—Local prosecutors are *accelerating* their investigation of the break-in at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist on John D. Ehrlichman, until recently one of President Nixon's most trusted advisers.

According to sources close to the case, virtually all potential witnesses are being offered immunity for their testimony against Mr. Ehrlichman and Egl Krogh Jr., formerly Mr. Ehrlichman's chief assistant.

"We are interested in getting the principals, whomever they may be," said a spokesman for District Attorney Joseph P. Busch of Los Angeles County.

Legal Situation Unclear

The legal situation is still murky, and the grand jury will not begin hearing testimony here until June 5.

News of the burglary was first disclosed two weeks ago at the trial of Dr. Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo Jr., who were charged with conspiracy, theft and espionage for their role in taking and copying the Pentagon papers—a secret Government study of the United States involvement in the Vietnam war. Those charges were dismissed last Friday by Federal Judge William Matthew Byrne Jr. after he decided that Government actions in the case had "offended a sense of justice."

The actions that led to the break-in reportedly began after President Nixon voiced deep concern over the leakage of information he considered vital to national security. According to Mr. Ehrlichman, the President ordered a secret White House investigation separate from any efforts made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The job was reportedly assigned to Mr. Krogh, then Mr. Ehrlichman's chief assistant, and David R. Young Jr., on loan from the staff of Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's adviser on national security. According to Mr. Krogh, Mr. Ehrlichman approved of using "covert" methods to gather information about Dr. Ellsberg, who had already been indicted in the Pentagon papers case.

Break-In at Doctor's

Mr. Krogh admits that he then ordered the break-in at the Beverly Hills office of Dr. Lewis J. Fielding, Dr. Ellsberg's psychiatrist, on Sept. 3, 1971. Mr. Ehrlichman contends that he learned of the burglary only after it happened, and that he warned the burglars "not to do this again."

But Mr. Ehrlichman apparently never reported the incident to law enforcement authorities. Charles W. Colson, former special counsel to President Nixon, has said that Mr. Ehrlichman told him about the burglary, but warned him it was a "national security matter" and "not to discuss it with anyone."

The five-man burglary squad *isa* said to have included E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former agent for the Central Intelligence Agency, and G. Gordon Liddy, a former F.B.I. man, both of whom were convicted for their roles in the break-in at Democratic party headquarters in the Watergate building about 10 months after the Beverly Hills break-in. The other three were separately Cuban exiles from Miami.

Mr. Ehrlichman has been invited to testify before the grand jury here (but it is still unclear whether he will appear. His lawyer, John J. Wilson, confirmed today that he had talked to representatives of the District Attorney but the lawyer would have no further comment.

Krogh to Testify

Mr. Krogh has already agreed to testify. When he resigned from his new job as Under Secretary of Transportation last week, he told the President that he wanted "to accept full responsibility" for the burglary.

Mr. Hunt and Mr. Colson have also agreed to appear, and the witness list could include the three Cubans and representatives of the C.I.A. The agency gave Mr. Hunt recording equipment and other devices to use in the burglary after receiving a request from the White House for assistance.