

A million-dollar lawsuit was filed against members of the Administration today for conspiracy in connection with the Ellsberg affair. Here's a report from Mark Shwartz:

Elmer Davis, charged with the break-in of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, has filed a \$1-million civil complaint against President Nixon, John Ehrlichman and six others for conspiracy and libel. Davis, a 45-year-old black law researcher, was arrested on October 7th, 1971, for the burglary of a Beverly Hills dress shop. Davis says he was being interviewed for a job at the University of Southern California at the time the dress shop was burglarized. The Beverly Hills police offered him a deal to confess to some 13 burglaries, including the September 3rd break-in at the office of psychiatrist Lewis Fielding. But last May convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt told a Washington grand jury that the burglary of Dr. Fielding's office was authorized by Egil Krogh, an aide to President Nixon. According to Senate testimony this week by John Dean, Krogh said that President Nixon himself ordered the break-in.

In his civil complaint filed in Los Angeles Federal Court, Elmer Davis now charges Nixon and his agents Krogh, Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy with conspiring to commit the break-in under the guise of "domestic security." Davis also charges Hunt and Liddy with providing three male Cubans with equipment supplied by the CIA, used in the burglary. And Davis charges that Nixon, Ehrlichman, Krogh and Beverly Hills police chief B.L. Cork [phonetic] conspired to make him a "scapegoat" in order to cover up their own criminal acts and to falsely convict him.

Davis, acting as his own attorney while in Folsom prison, says he was in the Beverly Hills jail at the time of the break-in of Dr. Fielding's office, serving a sentence for petty theft.

The Beverly Hills police chief told the L.A. Times last May that Davis admitted to the break-in and said he was looking for narcotics. However, Chief Cork refused to open Davis's file, saying he had turned it over to the FBI. Davis charges the Beverly Hills police with "exposing his criminal record to public ridicule."

All in all, Davis is asking Nixon and the other seven for 1-million dollars in damages. His complaint also authorizes all state and federal courts in the United States to punish those he has named, including President Nixon, if the courts see fit.

This is Mark Shwartz, for KPPA.