

WXPPost
Ellsberg

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Rebuts Ehrlichman

Implications on Soviet Link

LOS ANGELES, July 26

(UPI)—Daniel Ellsberg said today that John D. Ehrlichman had made "false and slanderous" allegations in suggesting that Ellsberg might have given the Pentagon papers to the Soviet embassy in Washington.

Ellsberg pointed out that no such charges had been made against him in two years of government investigation and prosecution.

The Pentagon papers trial defendant charged that Ehrlichman's motive in making such "deceitful" allegations was to protect himself and others in the White House from possible criminal charges in the burglary of Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

[The delivery of the papers to the Soviet Embassy was revealed in a story in The Washington Post on June 3. Government intelligence officials said at the time that Ellsberg had never been linked to the incident in any way.]

Ellsberg, whose espionage-conspiracy-theft case was thrown out of court May 11

on grounds of government misconduct, called a news conference to rebut Ehrlichman's testimony before the Senate select committee.

Asked if he planned to take court action against Ehrlichman, Ellsberg said his attorney had advised him it would probably be futile.

"He told me that for someone as notorious as I am to bring action under the libel laws of the country had very little chance," he said.

Ehrlichman has testified before the committee that at the time the Pentagon papers first appeared in The New York Times on June 13, 1971, the White House had information that another set had been turned over to the Russian embassy.

[Ehrlichman, in response to a question Wednesday from Sen. Herman Talmadge (D-Ga.) on the timing of the break-in at Dr. Lewis Fielding's office in Los Angeles, said, "The investigation here was to find out who had stolen top-secret documents, and dissemi-

newspapers but, and we had at the time strong reason to believe that the documents delivered to the Soviet embassy were not the same documents as were printed in the New York Times."

In another response, Ehrlichman said, "The connection, of course, between the psychiatrist's records and the psychiatric profile [of Ellsberg], and the determination of whether there was a spy ring or a foreign conspiracy which had taken these top-secret documents and delivered them to a foreign power, it seems to me, is an unbroken chain of circumstances that explains itself."

[Today, in response to a question by Sen. Sam J. Erwin Jr. (D-N.C.) on the purpose of the entry into Dr. Fielding's office that came after Ellsberg held his press conference, Ehrlichman said, "I think this was an effort on the part of the special unit to do as they had done in other cases subsequently, to determine where there were holes in the, either in the federal govern-

Corp. [where Ellsberg once worked] or these outside units that would permit a person like Ellsberg and his co-conspirators, if there were any, to steal massive quantities of top-secret documents and turn them over to the Russians."]

In his press conference, Ellsberg said, "It is false and slanderous to suggest that I or anyone associated with me ever gave such information to the Soviet Union. There is nothing I could resent more."

Ellsberg said that if the Justice Department had a shred of evidence to back up that charge it certainly would have been included in the indictment instead of charges that the top-secret documents were turned over to newspapers.

"The Soviets had no need for the papers," he said. "They could get them for 10 cents a day by buying the New York Times."

Ellsberg also denied Ehrlichman's testimony that for-

investigate fully the Pentagon papers case because of his personal friendship with Louis Marx Sr., Ellsberg's father-in-law.

Marx met Hoover only once, 30 years ago, and had never seen him since that time or even talked with him on the telephone although Marx was a great admirer of the FBI director, Ellsberg said.

"The fact is that a few days after the Pentagon papers appeared in The New York Times the FBI talked with Mr. Marx," Ellsberg said. "He was cooperative but told them he knew nothing about the matter, which was true."

Ellsberg said FBI agents interviewed his wife's two sisters, her brother, a cousin and her stepmother. He said the FBI conducted well over 1,000 interviews in all and came up only with the conclusion that Ellsberg acted "out of patriotic motives which the White House wasn't willing to accept."

Dr. Fielding on grounds that President Nixon and the White House had reason to believe that national security was imperiled.

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L.A. Grand Jury

Won't Be Impeded

LOS ANGELES, July 26 (UPI)—The grand jury inquiry into the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist "will not be impeded by any claim that President Nixon regarded the burglary as illegally justifiable," District Attorney Joseph Busch said Wednesday.

Former presidential adviser John D. Ehrlichman testified Wednesday before the Senate Watergate committee that the burglary was "well within the constitutional function of the presidency" because of considerations of national security.

But Busch, conducting the Los Angeles county grand jury investigation into the burglary, said, "I can't imagine anyone arguing that we couldn't return indictments