

First Word Of Ellsberg Burglary

Washington

Transcripts of tapes provided by the White House indicate President Nixon learned of the break-in of Pentagon papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist office on March 17, 1973, but dismissed it as "irrelevant."

The President's conversation with John W. Dean III, his former White House counsel, on the subject of the burglary of the Los Angeles office of Dr. Lewis Fielding was included in the 1300-page document containing transcripts of Mr. Nixon's Watergate-related conversations.

Dean told the President that there was a "potential problem" in connection with the break-in by E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy, then allegedly under supervision of former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman.

Dean expressed the view that the burglary could come up in the Watergate investigation.

"This is the first time that I ever heard of this," Mr. Nixon was quoted as saying. "I, I (unintelligible) care about Ellsberg was not our problem."

"Well anyway," Dean replied, "it was under an Ehrlichman structure, maybe John didn't ever know. I've never asked him if he knew. I didn't want to know."

Mr. Nixon said, "I can't see this getting into this hearing."

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