

C.I.A. and Congress Investigate Ellsberg Burglary Authorization

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WASHINGTON, May 7 — The Central Intelligence Agency and at least one Congressional committee are investigating a report that Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., the Marine Corps commandant who, while serving as the C.I.A.'s Deputy Director in 1971, authorized the use of the agency's facilities and equipment by a group of burglars allegedly directed from the White House.

The C.I.A.'s internal inquiry was ordered by its director, James R. Schlesinger, to determine the precise nature of the intelligence agency's role in the bizarre but unproductive break-in at the Los Angeles office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist in September, 1971.

Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, who heads a new House subcommittee that oversees the activities of the C.I.A., said today that he had spoken with Mr. Schlesinger this morning, who had confirmed that the inquiry had begun.

Linked to Authorization

The New York Times reported today that General Cushman, acting on a request from the White House, had approved the use of C.I.A. disguises, bogus identification papers and secure meeting places by two White House aides assigned to steal the psychiatric records of Dr. Ellsberg, a defendant in the Pentagon papers trial.

The chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator John L. McClellan of Arkansas, said he planned to begin secret hearings soon on the alleged involvement of the C.I.A. in the burglary.

Mr. McClellan said Mr. Schlesinger and General Cushman would be called to testify, as would Richard Helms, Director of the C.I.A. at the time of the burglary and now United States Ambassador to Iran.

Mr. Nedzi said that the Subcommittee on Intelligence, an arm of the House Armed Services Committee, would also investigate the reports. A spokesman for Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, said the Senate Govern-

ment Operations Committee's Subcommittee on Investigations, which Mr. Jackson heads, also planned to look into the charges.

General Cushman, who left the C.I.A. early last year to become commandant of the Marine Corps, was ordered by the Defense Department today not to discuss his reported involvement in the burglary.

The 59-year-old general had planned to hold a news conference today in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where he is visiting Dutch military installations. Shortly before the session was scheduled to begin, however, an aide announced that the general would have no comment.

The aide added that General Cushman had been directed by the Pentagon to submit an affidavit to the Justice Department on the matter after he returned to Washington.

The unsuccessful burglary at the office of the psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis I. Fielding, was arranged by two men arrested last year in connection with the Watergate bugging, E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, while both men were employed by the White House. Hunt later pleaded guilty in the Watergate case, and Liddy was subsequently convicted in the same case.

Hunt has told a Federal grand jury investigating the Watergate bugging that the Ellsberg burglary had been supervised by two other White House staff members, Egil Krogh Jr. and David R. Young, both of whom have since left their posts.

Mr. Krogh's former supervisor, John D. Ehrlichman, who resigned last week as President Nixon's chief adviser for domestic affairs, has told agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Hunt and Liddy had been asked to investigate Dr. Ellsberg after the disclosure of the top-secret Pentagon papers study by The Times in June, 1971.

Mr. Ehrlichman told the agents, however, that he had not authorized the burglary, which failed to turn up Dr. Ellsberg's psychiatric records, and that when he learned of it, he instructed Hunt and Liddy "not to do this again."