

Investigators for the Senate Watergate committee are now looking into the case of black California prisoner Elmer Davis. Mark Shwartz received a letter this week from one of the Watergate committee senators, and here is his report.

Shwartz: Elmer Davis may get to testify before the Senate Watergate committee. Davis is a 45-year-old self-trained lawyer who has charged with the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist two years ago. It turns out he could not have committed the burglary because he was in jail in Los Angeles at the time of the break-in. Davis has filed a million-dollar suit against President Nixon, John Ehrlichman, Howard Hunt and Gordon Liddy, charging that they conspired with members of the Beverly Hill police department to make him a scapegoat for the break-in of Dr. Fielding's office, an act which Howard Hunt told the Watergate committee yesterday he and Liddy helped plan.

I wrote to the Watergate committee last month asking if they intend to call Elmer Davis to the stand. This week I received a reply from Sen. Herman Talmadge, who says, "I have taken the liberty of forwarding all the information which you sent me to the legal staff of the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities. Please be assured that the attorneys for the committee will review this matter and contact you if further information is needed."

Maybe Davis will get to testify in Washington.

During the past few weeks attorneys representing the Beverly Hills police have filed their response to the Davis versus Nixon case, telling the Los Angeles Federal District Court that the case should be dropped because Davis's charges are "redundant, immaterial, impertinent and scandalous." Davis, who is defending himself, has filed legal responses to each of these charges. He also has been granted a hearing in the state Appeals Court in Sacramento on Oct. 7th, to determine if he is being held in prison on the basis of illegal action taken by the California Adult Authority.

This is Mark Shwartz, for KPFA News.