

Ellsberg Reveals Extortion Letter

By Jim Brewer

Daniel Ellsberg produced a photocopy of an extortion letter yesterday that he said was left by the burglar who broke into his home in Mill Valley.

"I want most of all to know who this burglar is and who he was working for," Ellsberg said yesterday at his attorney's office here.

The extortion note displayed by Ellsberg warned him to "negotiate properly" for the return of four briefcases full of documents, some of which, according to their markings, appeared to have been classified by the government.

The burglary took place on the night of October 1, but was revealed just this week. It involved the loss of photographic and stereo equipment as well as various papers.

Ellsberg's attorney, Benjamin Dreyfus, is arguing with federal agents about whether some of the documents are secret and should not be in Ellsberg's possession.

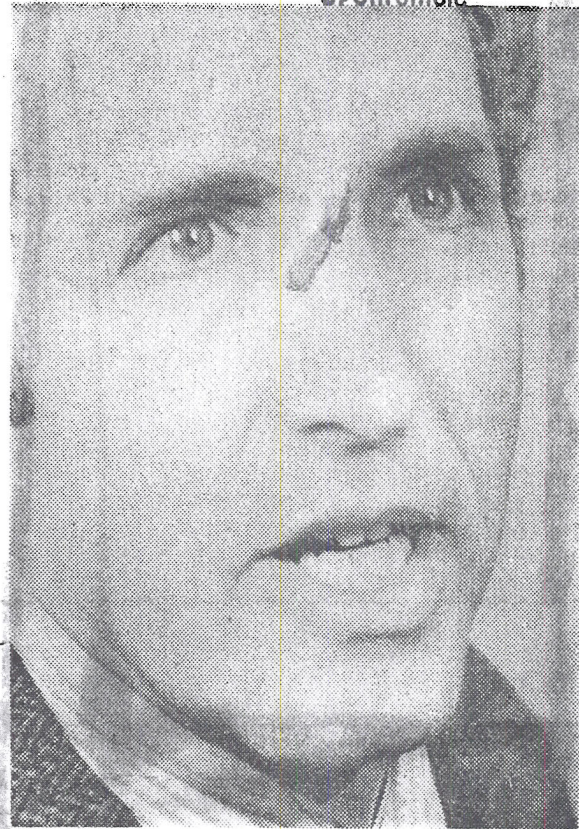
Ellsberg acknowledged to reporters yesterday that some of the documents were classified, but he maintained they should not have been and the government has no right to see any of them.

"The bulk of it is extremely privileged information having to do with communication between my lawyer and myself," Ellsberg said, saying it involved his de-

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By William S. Young

**PENTAGON PAPERS' DANIEL ELLSBERG
He wants to know if the burglar was hired**

fense in the Pentagon Papers case.

"But there is nothing that I know of that could in any way harm this country," he said.

That was also his position during the case involving the Pentagon Papers, which the government charged were taken by Ellsberg illegally for his own uses.

That case was dismissed after it was disclosed that some government evidence had been obtained by wiretapping and that government officials had participated in the burglary of the

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office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Ellsberg said the government is attempting "to control and destroy everything I have — that includes everything in my head."

It was a rare public appearance for Ellsberg, who moved to Marin county last summer. He spoke softly but confidently as he faced about 30 newsmen in Dreyfus's Market street office.

Earlier in the day, one of Dreyfus's associates, Allan Brotsky, discussed Ellsberg's papers with U.S. Attorney James Browning.

Brotsky told reporters he wanted a week to resolve the matter with the government without having to resort to litigation. Browning agreed.

In response to a question, Brotsky said there was nothing to indicate the government was involved in the burglary of Ellsberg's home, but he wanted to be sure in light of the earlier burglary.

Ellsberg acknowledged that the Mill Valley burglar "may not have been paid with new \$100 bills," but he said the extortion letter prompted him to immediately notify the office of the special Watergate prosecutor in Washington.

A 21-year-old Mill Valley man, Kevin Quinn, is in the Marin county jail, charged with the burglary of another Mill Valley residence and possession of stolen property.

An assistant Marin county district attorney, Ernest Zu-

nino, told The Chronicle yesterday he expects to charge Quinn with the Ellsberg burglary as well.

"The only reason I haven't charged him already is that we hoped we might be able to recover all of the stolen material," Zunino said, adding that he believes most has been.

Zunino also said there was absolutely no evidence of any government involvement in the burglary.

Quinn has a lengthy record in Marin county for burglary and possession of stolen property dating back four years — when he was 17.

Neither Zunino nor Mill Valley police chief William Walsh were able to find a link between Quinn and anyone who might have been directing him.

Experts have compared Quinn's handwriting with that on the extortion note and have forwarded their opinions to Marin county authorities. One police source called the note "the strongest evidence against Quinn."

Ellsberg read the note to reporters. It said:

"Sorry Daniel.

"Not a word of this to ANYONE — much trouble will be avoided if you negotiate properly. Don't slip.

"— soon you'll know."

Ellsberg said the note was left at his home the night of the burglary and there never was a follow-up to it.

Ellsberg said he had the documents for reference for a book he was writing, but he never fully explained how he acquired documents that were classified.

"They were acquired during ten years of working for the Defense Department and the State Department," Ellsberg said, "but I don't want to say more because it is our contention that the government has no right to any of it.

"They're my personal property as pieces of paper. If anybody owns the information, the taxpayers do."

The papers — at least, those that have been recovered — are in the custody of Police Chief Walsh.