



SHERMAN SKOLNICK

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**Skolnick,
aide missing**

Legal researcher Sherman Skolnick, the head of the Citizens Committee to Clean Up the Courts, was reported missing Monday.

The controversial Skolnick, who initiated legal actions that led to reapportionments and resignations of Illinois Supreme Court justices, was reported missing by an aide.

Leland Cole, 23, the assistant, said Skolnick had his file with him and was on his way to a meeting downtown on the Watergate hotel bugging case. Skolnick was investigating possible links between the Watergate matter and the crash of a plane at Midway Airport last December.

Cole said he waited by the telephone until 10 a.m. before reporting Skolnick missing. Skolnick was driven from his home at 4800 S. Oglesby by a chauffeur, David Hoffman, who also is considered missing by the organization. Police said they were investigating.

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Aides to legal researcher Sherman Skolnick said Tuesday they still had no clues to his whereabouts almost 24 hours after they reported him missing.

Skolnick, 42, and his driver, David Hoffman, 31, were reported missing at 10 a.m. Monday to South Chicago District police.

A Skolnick aide, Leland Cole, said he notified police after Skolnick and Hoffman left Skolnick's home at 9600 S. Oglesby and failed to make a pre-arranged telephone call.

Cole said they were going to a meeting about the Watergate bugging case and that Skolnick was believed to be carrying his entire Watergate file.

COLE SAID Skolnick's group, Citizens Committee to Clean Up the Courts, believes federal government agents seized the dossiers because of Skolnick's research on the Watergate affair.

The FBI said it is "aware of the allegations" but not conducting an investigation.

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