

Report Says Ehrlichman OKd Spying, Wiretaps

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John D. Ehrlichman, President Nixon's former chief domestic adviser, authorized a series of espionage missions and at least two previously undisclosed illegal wiretaps beginning in 1969 that were carried out by a White House intelligence group, officials knowledgeable about the

Watergate investigation said yesterday.

In addition, the officials said, detailed planning for a number of White House-ordered burglaries was authorized by Ehrlichman, although it could not be learned whether any such burglaries — including a planned foray into the Brookings Institution here — actually took place.

Most of the operations were coordinated by John J. Caulfield and Anthony T. Ulasewicz, two former New York City policemen who began working for the White House in early 1969, the officials said. The operations included a clandestine investigation into the background of Mario Biaggi.

Biaggi, as a freshman representative from New York City in 1969, bitterly criticized as "insulting" to Italian-Americans an early Nixon crime message to Congress calling for an attack on organized crime. Biaggi was defeated in Monday's New York Mayoral primary.

QUERY

In addition, Ehrlichman's and Caulfield's informal White House group — described by knowledgeable sources as a precursor of the 1971 "plumbers" operation set up by Mr. Nixon to investigate the Pentagon Papers leak, — also queried a number of participants and eyewitnesses to the massacre at My Lai in South Vietnam in late 1969 or early 1970 to determine if the first newspaper accounts of the

atrocities were correct.

One government investigator said that a full description of the White House group's work would be provided to the Senate Watergate committee by John W. Dean III, the former White House counsel, who is scheduled to testify next Wednesday, barring court intervention.

TESTIMONY

In his televised testimony last month before the Senate Watergate committee, Caulfield, a former undercover policeman in New York, gave a far-from-complete description of his initial assignment inside the White House.

"During the first three years," he said, "first on orders from Mr. Ehrlichman and later, in some instances, on orders from Mr. John Dean, Mr. Ulasewicz, under my supervision, performed a variety of investigative functions, reporting the results of his findings to the White House through me. I do not fully recall all of the investigations performed in this fashion. . . ."

WIRETAP

Officials said that in addition to about 18 clandestine intelligence missions, Caulfield and Ulasewicz were directly involved in the installation of a wiretap on telephone lines leading to the Georgetown residence of Joseph Kraft, a syndicated columnist.