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**ROGERS CONDEMNS  
'PLUMBERS' RAID**

**Deplores Ellsberg Break-In,  
Warns About Obsession  
With Idea of Security**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20—Secretary of State William P. Rogers said today, in discussing the Watergate scandal, that the United States must not become "so obsessed with security matters that laws are freely violated."

"I think one of the things that provides security for Americans is the fact that we are a law-abiding nation," he said. That includes "protection for all individuals, and a protection for individual rights, he told a news conference at the State Department.

He specifically condemned the September, 1971, break-in at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist that was directed by E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, later convicted in the Watergate burglary of June 17, 1972. The 1971 operation was part of the so-called "plumbers" activities intended to stop leaks of secret Government information.

"I think great care should be shown before any extra legal action is undertaken," Mr. Rogers said, asserting that he did not believe "the security considerations were sufficiently grave and serious to justify the burglary of Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office."

Mr. Rogers, who is regarded as a close friend of President Nixon and who was Attorney General in the Eisenhower Administration, indicated that it

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**Rogers Condemns Crimes  
Like Plumbers' Break-In**

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was sometimes hard to draw the line between what should be done in the name of security and what should not be done particularly in the case of wire-tapping.

"But generally speaking," he said, "I lean toward strict observance of legal requirements and only support a variance from that in very unusual circumstances."

In recent weeks, there have been rumors in Washington that Mr. Rogers would step down as Secretary of State this fall, to be replaced by Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security adviser.

The first question asked at the news conference — Mr. Rogers's first in Washington since Feb. 15—was about his plans, and he said:

"As you know, for about four years or so I have constantly made no comments on that subject. And I don't intend to make any comments about it today."

Mr. Rogers did say that his spokesman had correctly stated previously that Mr. Rogers had no desire either to serve on the Supreme Court or take an ambassadorship, two possibilities often rumored.

**Nixon Stressed Security**

The break-in at the psychiatrist's office grew out of an investigation by the White House into Dr. Ellsberg's background after the publication by The New York Times of excerpts from the so-called Pentagon papers.

In a statement last May 22, Mr. Nixon said that he had impressed upon Egil Grogh Jr., the head of the "plumbers," "the vital importance to the national security" of the Ellsberg investigation.

But the President added: "I did not authorize and had no knowledge of any illegal means to be used to achieve this goal."

Mr. Rogers was asked wheth-

er the publication of the Pentagon papers "did this nation any permanent harm."

He replied that the fact that the Government "moved very quickly" to indicate that it opposed the disclosure "probably reduced the harm."

"I think there still is a suspicion on the part of other governments that we are not the best nation in terms of keeping secrets," he said. "I think, in some areas, it is essential to be able to deal diplomatically, at least for a given period of time, without it [a Government secret] becoming public knowledge."

He said that every newspaper or television station followed the same course — "You don't make a public statement every time you are considering something. You announce it when the time comes."

Throughout the Watergate criticized such operations as affair, Mr. Rogers has privately teh "plumbers," but he has spoken out infrequently in public. A few weeks ago he said that Watergate had shown that the American system of financing political campaigns was "rotten" and needed reforms.

During his news conference today, Mr. Rogers was asked about the impact of Watergate on foreign affairs, in the light of Mr. Nixon's comment last week that that was one of the areas being "sapped by uncertainty" because of Watergate.

"I have not noticed any discernible effects on our foreign policy up to the present time," Mr. Rogers said.

"I think what the President had reference to—I am sure what he had reference to—is that if uncertainty continues, if there is a feeling on the part of other nations that we will not have sufficient support from the American people or from the Congress of the United States, it could adversely affect our foreign policy and our foreign affairs," Mr. Rogers said.