

KCBS, San Francisco

21 May 1973

10:30 a.m. news, network feed:

.....Former CIA director Richard Helms testified today that, as he put it, "Nobody dreamed that the White House was going to be undertaking burglaries" when the CIA agreed back in 1971 to provide a disguise and other material to E. Howard Hunt. Hunt, a one-time White House consultant, pleaded guilty last January to participating in the Watergate burglary of the Democratic national headquarters. The 1971 incident to which Helms referred was the burglary of the Beverly Hills offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Helms was testifying publicly for the first time before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about CIA involvement in that '71 incident. Helms indicated disgust over White House requests of the agency that he formerly headed. He said the CIA went along with the requests for the assistance because, again, quoting Helms, "assistance to the President has not been a crime, until," as he put it, ~~xxxxxxx~~ "fairly recently."

KCBS, 10 a.m.

Network feed:

The present CIA director, Richard Helms, was questioned about his reaction to orders from presidential staff aides. Hubert Humphrey specifically asked why the CIA provided disguises to Howard Hunt at the insistence of White House aides:

Humphrey (voice): When you get a request from a White House staff member, Mr. Helms -- you've had them over the years -- what is the presumption of that request as to the basis of authority?

Helms (voice): The presumption is that it comes from the President.

Humphrey: That would be particularly true of the chief of staff?

Helms: Yes sir.

Helms testified nobody dreamed the White House would use CIA disguises in criminal activity.