

6 Dec 74 (1)

Ellsberg (home break-in) - Ellsberg's home in Mill Valley, California, is broken into the night of 1 Oct 74; * information is not made public until today.

Among items missing (amplifier, binoculars, boots, etc.) are papers removed from four four-drawer filing cabinets, some of which are described by Jack Anderson 27 Dec 74 as top-secret documents on possible use of tactical nuclear weapons in crisis over Quemoy and Matsu in 1958. On the night of the burglary the thief leaves a note which is interpreted as an extortion letter. Documents are later recovered and suspect, Kevin Quinn, is arrested 4 Dec when he was found to be wearing Ellsberg's boots as he was being arrested for another burglary.

Ellsberg, speaking to the press today, says the burglar "may not have been paid with new \$100 bills," but the extortion letter prompted him to immediately notify the Watergate special prosecutor's office.

See clippings on effort by the Defense Department to obtain the documents, held by the Mill Valley police, who refuse to surrender them. Police chief, with Ellsberg's full support, on 14 Dec hands the papers over to the counsel for the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information.

Quinn is bound over for trial 17 Dec. "During the hearing Carl Shapiro, Quinn's attorney ... said that if Ellsberg's papers were proven to be the material chiefly sought by the burglar it would be 'indicative of the fact that the papers ~~were stolen~~ ... were stolen at the insistence of an agency of the US government.' Shapiro also told the court he could offer information which would 'shake your ears off' but declined to elaborate."

See clippings in file headed Ellsberg (home break-in).
*"Ellsberg said ... that he had only recently brought the papers to his home before they were stolen sometime between Sept. 28 and Oct. 1."

- See entry 7 Feb 75, Howard Hughes (break-in, 5 Jun 74).

6 Dec 74 (2)

Bittman testifies at cover-up trial as a court witness, over the objections of the prosecution and the defense, neither side being willing to vouch for his credibility. NYT says his testimony is substantially a repetition of the testimony he gave before Sirica several weeks ago, out of the jury's presence; *Sirica says he is calling him because unless he does the jury will not get all the evidence. See clippings.

Bittman, "an old friend of Neal," was named an unindicted co-conspirator and is under investigation by Watergate prosecutors in connection with allegations that he told Parkinson of Hunt's hush money demands.

"He's Mr. Neal's friend," [Frates] chortled at one point. 'He's not Mr. Ehrlichman's friend.' 'Yes, he is my friend,' Neal shot back ~~agxi~~ angrily. 'And I think he did wrong. But a man can do wrong and still be my friend. I don't let 'em hang and twist slowly, slowly in the wind.'"

NYT, WXP, SFC, 7 Dec 74

Garment has submitted his resignation from the White House staff, to take effect 31 Dec 74; will join the New York law firm of Trubin, Sillcocks, Edelman and Knapp, and also will be associated with the WX firm of Ruckelshaus, Beveridge and Fairbanks.

WXP, SFC [AP], 7 Dec 74

Harry S. Dent resigns as general counsel of the Republican National Committee. He has been under investigation by special prosecutor's office "for his alleged role in distributing campaign funds from a secret White House fund in behalf of a committee that failed to register as required by law. [This] investigation arose from a statement made last February by [Kalmbach, who] said that he, Dent, ... Haldeman and Jack A. Gleason" ran this campaign, known as "Townhouse Operation."

WXP 7 Dec 74, Lou Cannon

- Dent pleads guilty 11 Dec 74 to aiding and abetting an illegal fund-raising operation.

WXP 12 Dec 74, Timothy S Robinson