

Ehrlichman A 2d Time

5/3/73

By Leroy F. Aarons
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, May 2—John Ehrlichman said in a statement disclosed today that he had been out of touch with the secret White House investigation of the Pentagon Papers case for more than a year, and that the results of the probe are probably in the hands of two White House staff members, Egil Krogh and David Young.

The former White House domestic relations chief, whose resignation was accepted Monday by President Nixon, was interviewed again by the FBI following the revelation Tuesday that Ehrlichman, acting under President Nixon's orders, had coordinated the secret Pentagon Papers investigation sometime in 1971.

The results of the interview were made available to the defense in the Pentagon Papers trial today by U.S. District Court Judge W. Matt Byrne Jr.

It was also disclosed Tuesday that Ehrlichman hired G. Gordon Liddy and H. Howard Hunt, who began preparing a personal dossier on Pentagon Papers co-defendant Daniel Ellsberg. According to allegations in a document made public in the court here, Hunt and Liddy burglarized the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist on Sept. 7, 1971. Ehrlichman said he found out about the burglary later and told the men "not to do this again."

In other interviews with the FBI, H.R. Haldeman, former White House chief of staff, who has also resigned, and Bruce A. Kehrli, a staff secretary to President Nixon, denied any prior knowledge of the Pentagon Papers investigation or of the results.

In another development, Judge Byrne confirmed from the bench that he met face to face with Ehrlichman on two occasions in which the subject of a possible offer to the judge of the directorship of the FBI was brought up.

See PAPERS, A16, Col. 3
PAPERS, From A1

Previously, Byrne revealed he had held two con-

versations with Ehrlichman, one at San Clemente, but it was not known that there had been a second person-to-person meeting.

The San Clemente session occurred on April 5, Byrne said, and the second meeting in Santa Monica on April 7.

Byrne reiterated that on each occasion he had refused to "discuss or consider" the offer until the trial was over.

But the Pentagon Papers defense team today once again pressed their campaign for dismissal, based largely on the allegation that the judge had been compromised by his contacts with administration officials who may have known about and possibly suppressed secret investigation directly affecting the case.

The turnover of statements of Ehrlichman, Haldeman and Kehrli by prosecutor David Nissen followed the morning session in which Judge Byrne castigated the government for its slowness in providing investigative reports that may have tainted the case.

Said Byrne:

"I have received nothing at all on the fruits of their (Hunt and Liddy's) investi-

gations, and what other acts could have been performed

I am concerned about the possibility of taint, and the possibility of improper acts, and whether the investigation is being resisted because of the investigation of the grand jury in Washington . . . I want to know the effect of the acts Liddy been maintained there. [In the Krogh-Young offices.] . . . Time is of the essence."

The documents turned over this afternoon threw little new light on the Hunt and Liddy activities or the fruits of their operations.

In the Ehrlichman interview held yesterday in Washington in the presence of his attorney's, John Wilson and Frank H. Strickler, the former Nixon aide said he recalled a project to prepare a psychiatric profile on Ellsberg, but said it had been over a year since he had seen anything on the investigation.

Ehrlichman told the FBI the probe was being handled out of the office of Egil Krogh, then a White House aide and now undersecretary of transportation, and David Young, of the National Security Agency.

He said, according to the FBI, that "the results of that investigation must have

been maintained there. (In the Krogh-Young offices). Mr. Ehrlichman did not know the whereabouts of what Krogh, Young, Hunt and Liddy produced as a result of their investigation."

Ehrlichman also told the FBI he had seen FBI reports on Ellsberg's wife and on New York Times reporter Neil Sheehan, the man who originally broke the Pentagon Papers story.

Ehrlichman said he maintained a newspaper clipping file on the Pentagon Papers case, but that this file had been sent to the President's files and was now probably in "archives."

Ehrlichman and his attorney protested the public disclosure of his FBI interviews, the first of which occurred last Friday. Prosecutor Nissen attempted unsuccessfully to bar disclosure of government investigative reports in court.

The Kehrli interview, in which he denied any knowledge of the Hunt-Liddy operation, was significant in the light of previous disclosures that Kehrli had opened Hunt's safe at the White House after the Watergate Break-in and removed documents, some of which were marked "Pentagon Papers" and "Daniel Ellsberg."

Meanwhile, Judge Byrne asked government and defense attorneys to file briefs Thursday on legal precedents in regard to both dismissal and mistrial.

Defense attorney Leonard Weinglass, speaking outside of court, said the defense would accept a mistrial with prejudice (meaning no retrial could be held), "with the understanding that the judge will go forward with a hearing and a full investigation to get at the full facts of the case."



Associated Press

John D. Ehrlichman laughed with newsmen while leaving his home in Great Falls yesterday morning.