

John Kennedy's Doctor Recalls Break-Ins Before '60 Convention

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The Manhattan offices of two physicians who treated former President John F. Kennedy were burglarized shortly before the 1960 Democratic National Convention, Dr. Eugene J. Cohen, one of the two physicians, said Wednesday night.

"It was all done in a style similar to the burglary of the offices of Ellsberg's doctor," said Dr. Cohen, referring to the disclosure growing out of the Watergate scandal that men hired by the White House had burglarized the office of a psychiatrist who had treated Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, a defendant in the Pentatgon papers trial.

Dr. Cohen said it was "obvious" what the burglars were after, referring to his files on the then Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts, but he said that the Kennedy material had been filed under "another letter far from K."

He confirmed that the offices of Dr. Janet G. Travell, who later became President Kennedy's personal physician at the White House, were also broken into at the same time.

On both occasions, however, no material on the late President was found to be missing, Dr. Cohen said. He also said that he doubted that any of the files had been photographed, since a check of Mr. Kennedy's file indicated that it had not been disturbed.

"All the K's were spread around the floor," he said, but nothing was missing. "They ignored drugs and other valuables," he said.

When the police learned that a break-in was also made at the same time at Dr. Travell's office, Dr. Cohen said, "It didn't take them long to put two and two together. They asked who our patients were and when both of us came up with Kennedy, it was obvious what it was all about."

Dr. Cohen said he could not remember the exact day of the break-in, but recalled that the incident happened several days before Mr. Kennedy was nominated by the Democratic convention.

He said he was now convinced the burglars were after Mr. Kennedy's medical records as a political weapon in the 1960 campaign, in which Mr. Kennedy defeated then Vice President Nixon.

The burglars had even less success at the offices of Dr. Travell, he said. There, the intruders made it through an outer-office door but were unable, he said, to break through a steel door with special locks leading to her inner office. Dr. Travell could not be reached for comment last night.

Mr. Kennedy's health had been an issue before and during the 1960 campaign, with his Democratic opponents circulating reports that he suffered from Addison's disease. Mr. Kennedy denied this and released a medical report signed by both Drs. Cohen and Travell saying that a general checkup showed him to be in good health.

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