

General's Ellsberg Role

NEW YORK — (AP) — Sources say that while Marine Corps Commandant Robert E. Cushman Jr. was serving as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, he gave the go-ahead for CIA assistance in the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist, the New York Times said today.

Ellsberg is a defendant in the Pentagon Papers trial.

The Times, quoting sources close to the Watergate case, said Cushman authorized the use of CIA material and research for the burglary at the request of former Presidential assistant John D. Ehrlichman.

Cushman, who left the CIA in 1971, reportedly accepted full responsibility for the decision to let the CIA assist in

preparations for the break-in, the Times said.

In grand jury testimony last Wednesday, E. Howard Hunt Jr. told of using disguises, fake identification papers and a "safehouse" in Washington provided by the CIA in advance of the burglary.

Watergate conspirators G. Gordon Liddy and Hunt were identified recently in a government memorandum as the men who broke into the office of Ellsberg's former psychiatrist after publication of the Pentagon Papers.

According to the Times account, Hunt went to his superior in the burglary plot, Egil Krough Jr., who in turn went to Ehrlichman after it was learned that higher authority was needed before

the CIA would furnish assistance.

"Ehrlichman makes a phone call to Cushman and says, 'Hey, these guys need some chores done. Won't you take care of it?' Cushman says, 'O.K., I'll do it,'" a Times' source said.

"There was absolutely nothing in writing," the source continued. "There was only one call, just a little lean-on call by Ehrlichman. And then Hunt and Liddy began asking for safehouses and all the rest."

A safehouse has been described as an area where persons planning clandestine actions can meet without fear of interruption or being overheard. Safehouse phones are equipped with a scramble system.

The CIA was established by the National Security Act of 1947, which bars the agency from internal security functions. But the law also authorizes the CIA to protect "intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure."



ROBERT CUSHMAN
Questioned on burglary