

Developments in 2 Cases

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The Ellsberg break-in: Sources close to the Watergate affair in Washington told The New York Times that President Nixon, apparently for reasons of national security, had twice tried to suppress certain details about the 1971 break-in of the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

At the Ellsberg trial in Los Angeles, Egil Krogh Jr., a former White House aide who has acknowledged authorizing the break-in, said that John D. Ehrlichman, a former key Presidential adviser, had authorized "covert activity" against Dr. Ellsberg. One reason for a separate White House investigation, he said, was the close personal relationship between the F.B.I. director, J. Edgar Hoover, and Dr. Ellsberg's father-in-law.

The White House: In Key Biscayne, Fla., a spokesman, with the President's approval, issued a sweeping statement saying Mr. Nixon had no "prior knowledge" of the Watergate bugging and had not participated in "any cover-up activity."

Forged cables: E. Howard Hunt Jr., the convicted Watergate conspirator who first disclosed the break-in, asserted in testimony released yesterday at the Ellsberg trial that Charles W. Colson, a key White House aide until his resignation earlier this year, personally ordered Hunt to fabricate State Department cables to implicate President Kennedy in the assassination of Premier Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam.

Special Prosecutor: Attorney General-designate Elliott L. Richardson announced that he would appoint a special prosecutor to supervise the investigation of the increasingly complex Watergate case—but only after the Senate confirms his nomination.

The White House View: White House aides insisted privately that President Nixon's growing dismay at a series of leaks in 1970 and 1971 involving information he deemed vital to national security—plus his lack of confidence in the F.B.I.—led to the creation of the special investigative unit and created the "atmosphere" in which his subordinates authorized Hunt to break into the psychiatrist's office.

Details of the foregoing will be found on this page and on Pages 26 and 27.
