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The Week In Review

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The Ellsberg Break-in Case

SENIOR agency officials were "angry and depressed." According to a source with close connections to the Central Intelligence Agency, officials felt that "irreparable damage" had been done to the organization. "They think," said the source, "that the whole project was an absolute violation of the CIA's charter."

The "whole project" in question was none other than the alleged break-in at the Beverly Hills offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. It was the second time a major U.S. governmental agency had been besmirched by the Watergate affair. And, ironically, the first agency to be so stained — the FBI — was now involved in the investigation of the second.

The CIA's role in the plot surfaced last weekend when Grand Jury testimony given by Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt was released by the Pentagon Papers trial judge, Matt Byrne.

'White House Plot'

According to Hunt's testimony, the plot to break into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist was conceived, engineered, financed and supervised by the White House, while the CIA supplied the camera and the disguises to accomplish the job.

Disclosing an elaborate scenario in detail, Hunt said that he had been personally directed by two men then on the White House staff — Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr. and David Young.

The testimony described how Hunt and co-conspirator G. Gordon Liddy first "cased" the doctor's home neighborhood and his office; how they secured a special camera for the job from the CIA and how they visited a CIA "safehouse" in Washington to secure disguises and false identification materials.

Last week, The New York Times reported that General Robert Cushman Jr., the Marine Corps commandant who, in 1971, was deputy director of Central Intelligence, had authorized the use of CIA material and research in the Ellsberg files.

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burglary. And the sources fingered John Ehrlichman, President Nixon's chief adviser for domestic affairs (who recently resigned) as the man who specifically solicited Cushman's cooperation.

Cushman, who left the CIA in 1971, was questioned by FBI agents and reportedly accepted "full responsibility" for the decision to permit the CIA to help E. Howard Hunt and Gordon Liddy prepare for the break-in.

Hunt, a 20-year CIA veteran who, along with Liddy and five others, was arrested in connection with the Watergate bugging, told the

grand jury that he believed that cooperation with the CIA had been arranged by Egil Krogh.

Man in Charge

At the time, according to grand jury testimony, Krogh was directly in charge of a special White House team that had been set up in the aftermath of the June, 1971, publication of the Pentagon Papers, to determine who was involved in the disclosure of the documents.

Krogh, at the time one of Ehrlichman's key deputies, reportedly recruited both Liddy and Hunt over the next few weeks, and the two men immediately began planning the operation to get the psychiatrist's records.

Krogh, who last week resigned his new job as under-secretary of transportation, sent a classified affidavit to the Ellsberg court nine days ago, in which he reportedly accepted full responsibility for the burglary.

In the rush of fast-



AP Wirephoto
KROGH



AP Wirephoto
CUSHMAN

breaking developments, it was also learned that FBI wiretappers had worked under the authority of then Attorney General John Mitchell, to lead the White House "Mission Impossible" team to Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Mitchell, according to government investigators, had cited national security needs in authorizing — without court orders — more than a score of telephone wiretaps to try to plug the leaking of the Pentagon Papers in 1971.