

Ellsberg Says Trial Led to Revealing U.S. Misconduct

Los Angeles

Daniel Ellsberg said yesterday that the news that missing wiretap files on him had been found in the White House shows that the Pentagon Papers trial, though ended, continues to spur discoveries of government misconduct.

"I am not surprised," Ellsberg said of the announcement by acting FBI Director William Ruckelshaus that wiretap files had been found in the White House safe of presidential adviser John Ehrlichman.

"I've really believed there was massive wiretapping for a long time."

But Ellsberg added, "I had hoped our case would go on long enough to draw this and other things out. It barely did . . . This has been a good contribution of our case. I'm glad our case had a sting in its tail."

HOPING

Ellsberg said that in recent weeks, when Watergate and White House links to the trial surfaced, he began hoping that the nearly two years of proceedings against him and Anthony Russo would not stop.

He said he felt that the probe launched by the trial judge, U.S. District Judge Matt Byrne, was the key to opening long-hidden secrets of government wrongdoing.

Grenade Kills 3

Maracaiho, Venezuela

Three children were killed and three others critically injured yesterday in the accidental explosion of a hand grenade at a shooting range, police reported.

United Press

"When people began to talk here," Ellsberg said, "it seemed that everything would come out at last."

Last Friday, Byrne ended the trial, declaring a mistrial and dismissing all charges on grounds of government misconduct.

BURGLARY

Byrne's probe already had revealed that Watergate conspirators E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy, authorized by the White House, engineered a burglary of Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office to get intimate data on the defendants.

Byrne's investigation resulted in release of grand jury testimony by Hunt — the only such testimony from the Watergate probe

that was made public. And the judge also released usually secret FBI interviews and CIA statements about the burglary. Just before the dismissal, the FBI also disclosed that Ellsberg had been overheard in wiretaps in 1969 and 1970.

The Ellsberg-Russo attorneys said Ruckelshaus' disclosures would have some effect on a civil suit they now have pending in Washington which claims that both defendants and members of the defense team were the subjects of illegal wiretapping. That suit was filed last summer.

NIXON

Ellsberg said he has no plans to take part in any impeachment drive against President Nixon and will retire to a private life, for the time being, with his wife.

"I've been thinking about Richard Nixon for several years," Ellsberg said. "I've thought enough about him. I hope never to think about him again."

However, Ellsberg said he was going to Washington to testify tomorrow before a joint session of three congressional subcommittees looking into classification and secrecy in government.

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