

ELLSBERG SCORES RISE OF SECRECY

Calls Effect 'Something Like
an Executive Coup' in U.S.

By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY

Daniel Ellsberg declared yesterday that the growth of the use of secrecy in government had carried the United States toward "something like an executive coup."

Mr. Ellsberg, a defendant in the Pentagon Papers case that was dismissed last week in Los Angeles, was one of 35 generally liberal scholars, journalists, legislators and government officials participating in a two-day conference on government secrecy at the New York University Law School.

The conference is sponsored by the Committee for Public Justice formed in 1970, principally in opposition to actions by the Nixon Administration.

Mr. Ellsberg, who attended the Watergate hearings in Washington in the morning before coming to the conference, spoke of his own experience in national security affairs in government as an "apprenticeship" in habits of lying and misleading "amidst a trained conspiring

He said people privy to government secrets develop an "arrogance and contempt" for anyone who did not have access to those secrets. Such people, he said, separate themselves from the public and think their higher knowledge entitles them to go beyond the law or Congress.

"Nothing could be more directly subversive of democracy," he said. "What we're seeing is something like an executive coup." Mr. Ellsberg said the development of such a feeling was not limited to the Nixon Administration, but had come in the last 20 years of American anti-Communism.

Another panel member, Robert Saloschin, chairman of the Justice Department's Freedom of Information Committee, replied with comments about the necessity of secrecy in some areas and Constitutional protection of such secrecy.

Mr. Ellsberg, obviously angered as the discussion proceeded, said to Mr. Saloschin:

"I, sir, have been the subject of a false prosecution, of buggings, and attempted assault by members of your department.

"I suggest that your lectures on the Constitution are greatly needed by your colleagues in Washington."

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Charles E. Goodell, discussion moderator at conference at New York University Law School, conferring with Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, former defendant in the Pentagon papers case. Dr. Ellsberg addressed the conference.