

Ellsberg Prompts Senators To Requestion Richardson

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Krogh Meeting at Issue

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

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WASHINGTON, May 22 — In an unexpected move, apparently in response to actions by Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, the Senate Judiciary Committee today reopened its hearings on the confirmation of Elliot L. Richardson as Attorney General and questioned him closely about his contacts with the White House and figures close to the Watergate scandal.

Mr. Richardson's nomination had been headed for a swift confirmation by Senators eager to get on with the criminal investigation of the Watergate case. Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina and chairman of the special Watergate investigating committee, had announced that his vote would be for Mr. Richardson.

However, Dr. Ellsberg, a central figure in the Pentagon papers case that was dismissed May 11, informed a number of key Senators this morning that he felt Mr. Richardson was not



Associated Press

Elliot L. Richardson arrives to testify before Senate Judiciary Committee on post of Attorney General.

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telling all he knew of a luncheon May 1 with Egil Krogh Jr., a White House staff man who headed the so-called "plumbers" group that was trying to stop leaks of information at the White House.

Again and again, Mr. Richardson went over his discussions with Mr. Krogh at the meeting, which had been set up April 30 by John D. Ehrlichman, the assistant to the President for domestic affairs and Mr. Krogh's boss.

Each time, it seemed, a little more detail came out.

"I cannot add to what I've already said," Mr. Richardson protested at one point. "I have given you answers to the same questions four, five and six times."

"Each time you answer them, we gain a little more information," said Senator John V. Tunney, Democrat of California.

National Security Cited

Mr. Richardson today produced a memorandum on the meeting indicating that Mr. Krogh wanted to fully disclose his part in the burglary at the office of Dr. Ellsberg's former psychiatrist in Los Angeles but was unsure of how to do it.

Such a burglary, Mr. Richardson said Mr. Krogh told him, could be understood only if one realized that it was done for national security and was not just a common burglary.

"Krogh felt he had been part of an undertaking that had a legitimate national security purpose, and as part of overzealousness in carrying out

asked why he did not take some action after reading Mr. Krogh's statement and finding out that the C.I.A. involvement was not discussed.

Democrat of Mississippi, the committee chairman, protested that Mr. Richardson "wasn't Attorney General—he was responsible for the prosecution."

Senator Hart replied that he was "a general member of the bar."

Mr. Richardson commented that "it did not occur to me to regard that as a significant omission."

In his notes, Mr. Richardson said that Mr. Krogh commented to him about the burglary: "Something needs to be brought to the att'n of pres. was made aware of the fact itself in late March — but not who and what."

Mr. Richardson said it meant, as previously disclosed in The New York Times, that President Nixon knew of the burglary in late March. However, it was not made known to the judge in the Ellsberg trial until late April.

The memorandum over Mr. Krogh's possible actions—"Do I resign? Grand jury process—trial—all the explosiveness that it would entail?"

Options Outlined

Another option that Mr. Krogh suggested, according to Mr. Richardson's notes, was "Open it up widely, proceed without the protection of the system for a person's individual rights — affidavit to Judge Byrne?"

The third was, "Or is it done in open testimony before the Ervin committee? Press release — or what have you? (Many

that the making of a full disclosure was approved.

Mr. Nixon announced on April 30 that Mr. Ehrlichman had resigned that day.

During a break in the hearings, Mr. Ehrlichman was asked if this meant that Mr. Ehrlichman was still acting as an intermediary with the President two days after resigning. Mr. Richardson said, "It does."

Senator Byrd asked Mr. Richardson what some of the "national security" interests were.

"I believe he [Krogh] referred to the fact that the Ellsberg papers had found their way into Soviet Embassy hands before they reached The New York Times or some other newspapers," Mr. Richardson said.

The notes added other things