

Justice Dept. Spy Group Investigated

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Senate investigators began looking into the Nixon Administration's use of spying to gather intelligence on people in and out of government yesterday.

Members of the Senate Watergate committee's staff questioned Assistant Attorney General A. William Olson behind closed doors about the operations of the Justice Department's Internal Security Division.

Watergate burglar James W. McCord Jr. told the committee a section heading that division gave him intelligence reports almost daily while he was security chief for the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Sources said the staff also sought information about the Intelligence Evaluation Committee, a secret interagency group which Presi-

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dent Nixon said was set up in late 1970 "to improve coordination among the intelligence community and to prepare evaluations and estimates of domestic intelligence."

Newsweek Report

From Nixon's description of the IEC in a statement last week, the group's job would appear relatively innocuous. But it was explained just what the committee did or why its existence was kept secret.

Senate investigators said one of their first discoveries was that the IEC chief, Bernard Wells, was carried on Justice Department personnel records as head of the interdepartmental information unit — apparently a cover for his real job with the IEC.

Newsweek magazine reports in its issue for release today that a "chilling" White House plan to bug, burglarize and blackmail antiwar activists was briefly "operational" in 1970 until it was rejected by former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Nixon's statement last week alluded to such a plan, but said it provided for "breaking and entering" and was never operational. He said it was cancelled at Hoover's urging. He did not

say that it authorized wiretapping or blackmail.

Newsweek said the plan would have pooled the services of the FBI, CIA, National Security Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency to spy on militants believed fomenting domestic unrest.

The plan, Newsweek said, "paved the way for bugging, burglary, perhaps even blackmail by government agents against American citizens — among them federal employes, antiwar activists, campus radicals and Black Panthers — as well as foreign students and diplomats."

"One of the proposals would have created a new cadre of "super CIA agents for domestic missions, operatives who could not be traced to the agency and whose identity and assignments would be concealed from all but the highest agency officials."

Even though the plan was withdrawn five days after President Nixon approved it, "its spirit apparently lingered on," said Newsweek.

Illegal Break-Ins

Newsweek said White House agents "made surreptitious entries to undermine the defense" in at least three court cases although such entries had been forbidden. The magazine said undercover agents "working for the administration" made the entries in cases involving the Black Panthers, the Berrigan brothers and the Chicago Seven.

Also under scrutiny was another secret group set up by the President, ostensibly to plug national-security news leaks.

Its members were called "the White House plumbers."

The "plumbers" carried out the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office.