

# Key Ehrlichman Claim Is Disputed

Washington

General Robert E. Cushman Jr., former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said yesterday CIA records show it was John D. Ehrlichman who asked the agency to provide assistance to E. Howard Hunt, Jr., convicted Watergate conspirator.

Ehrlichman had told a Senate subcommittee Wednesday he did not recall making the request. The CIA briefly provided assistance to Hunt in 1971.

Cushman, now Marine commandant, told a news conference that late last December or early January, Ehrlichman asked him to delete his name from a memorandum concerning the assistance to Hunt.

The general, by then head of the Marine Corps, said CIA officials had asked for the memorandum as a result of a request for background on Hunt from the office of Watergate prosecutor Earl J. Silbert.

Cushman said he was told to send his memorandum to Ehrlichman. Later, he said, he got a phone call from Ehrlichman, who said "You're mentioning me by name. I have no record of it. In fact, I think I was out of town."

"So, I rewrote it," Cushman said.

He said he left Ehrlichman's name out of the second memorandum because his own memory was not clear. Subsequently, he said, a check of CIA records re-



AP Wirephoto

GEN. CUSHMAN AT NEWS CONFERENCE  
Ex-CIA official said he checked the records

vealed that on July 8, 1971, he had referred to the phone call, received the day before, at a CIA staff meeting and had mentioned that it was Ehrlichman who called.

Ehrlichman, a former top-ranking White House aide, said Wednesday that the first time he learned of the CIA assistance to Hunt was when Cushman called him

Aug. 27, 1971, and asked that the agency be permitted to terminate the assistance.

It was not until April, 1972, that it became publicly known that Hunt had used the CIA technical assistance in engineering the September, 1971, burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Associated Press

27 APR 73