

FBI Probing Domestic Spy Plan

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The FBI is looking into the possibility that elements of the Nixon administration's master plan for domestic intelligence gathering were put into operation despite President Nixon's assurance that the proposal "never went into effect."

Mr. Nixon acknowledged the existence of the so-called "1970 intelligence plan" in a long statement last week on several aspects of the Watergate case.

He disclosed at one point that the "unused" intelligence program, which was drawn up in response to increasing campus and urban unrest, included provisions for "surreptitious entry" by federal agents in the course of national security investigations.

Federal investigators believe that the plan's "breaking and entering" clause may have been used to support a number of covert burglaries, including some laid

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to members of the special investigations unit at the White House, but they have not yet determined which Administration officials, if any, authorized its use.

The FBI's investigation is focusing on two principal areas: the September, 1971, burglary of the Los Angeles office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist, and a series of four break-ins in 1971 and 1972 at the offices and residences of Chilean diplomats here and in New York City.

RECORDS

E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former member of the special investigations unit who pleaded guilty in the Watergate bugging case, has told a federal grand jury that he and G. Gordon Liddy directed the unsuccessful attempt to steal Ellsberg's psychiatric records.

Liddy, who was convicted in the Watergate trial in January, was also a member of the special investigations unit.

In his statement Mr. Nixon described the unit as a small group at the White House whose principal purpose was to stop security leaks — they were nicknamed "plumbers" — and to investigate other sensitive security matters.

There have been reports that Liddy and Hunt also supervised the tapping of telephones used by two reporters for the New York Times after the newspaper published parts of the Pentagon Papers in June, 1971, and that some of the "plumbers" conducted other covert operations, including break-ins, against the Berrigan brothers, the Black Panther Party and the Chicago Seven while they were involved in

Federal criminal proceedings.

CONCLUSION

One high-ranking Justice Department official, asked whether it appeared that portions of the 1970 intelligence plan in any of these cases, replied, "That's a conclusion you can certainly draw from what they (the administration) recommended (in the plan) and what they did."

Another official discounted reports that the top-secret Intelligence Evaluation Committee, which Mr. Nixon established after the 1970 plan was "rescinded" because of opposition from the late J. Edgar Hoover, had played any part in the plan's resurrection.

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