

Authorization

Ehrlichman on Ellsberg Theft

Washington

Former White House domestic counselor John D. Ehrlichman testified yesterday he did not remember authorizing the burglary of the files of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in 1971.

"He could not categorically state his recollections," reported Representative Lucien Nedzi, chairman of a House Armed Services subcommittee on intelligence.

"I don't want to admit or deny or comment on anything just now," Ehrlichman told newsmen before dashing for an elevator.

Ehrlichman's appearance before the Nedzi group followed publication of reports that he was sent a memo describing in detail the plans to burglarize the office of Beverly Hills psychiatrist Dr. Lewis Fielding.

The former White House aide was assigned general supervision of the White House special investigation unit whose two key members, E. Howard Hunt and Gordon Liddy, carried out the burglary plan. Hunt and Liddy were later convicted in the Watergate bugging case.

Ehrlichman could recall, according to Nedzi, that he

did approve a proposal for investigative work by the investigations unit on the West Coast. "He said he would have to review his records to determine absolutely whether or not there was any mention of the burglary," the Michigan Democrat added.

The Washington Post reported earlier that a memo sent to Ehrlichman by White House subordinates David Young and Egil (Bud) Krogh on the planned burglary is now in the hands of Watergate prosecutors.

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