

Announcer:[after assorted Watergate items] And speaking of records said to be lost by the government, it now comes out ~~that~~ after the Pentagon Papers trial is over that there were wiretaps on Daniel Ellsberg's phone, as well as on reporters of the New York Times in connection with the release of the Pentagon Papers. This is no big surprise. What is most significant about it is that the defense in the case, as well as the judge, repeatedly demanded of the government records of all surveillance, and the tap on Daniel Ellsberg's phone was never disclosed. The Washington Post says that they have learned that the taps began before the ~~re~~lease of the Pentagon Papers, that their perpetrators are that special White House investigations unit known as "the plumbers," and that transcripts of the taps were received at the White House.

Meanwhile in Los Angeles David Young, former assistant to Kissinger and member of the plumbers, testified only eight minutes today before the grand jury investigating the break-in into Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office. The district attorney refused to tell reporters if Young had invoked the Fifth Amendment, but others close to the investigation said it would be a "safe assumption" that he did. It's reported that Young planned to take the fifth if he were not granted immunity from prosecution, and a spokesman for the D.A.'s office said he has not been granted immunity.

~~X~~ As far as is known, if Young did take the Fifth, this would be the first time that any of those involved in the current investigations of government ~~activities~~ ^{legislation} has done so. That's interesting, because Nixon administration/on grand juries has, in the opinion of many constitutional attorneys, decimated the Fifth Amendment, with its categories of limited immunity and criminal contempt, leading to jail without trial. ~~The~~ number of ^{accused} people/of connections with radical or anti-war activities, as well as reporters who refused to reveal sources, have been imprisoned for refusing to talk to grand juries, held in contempt of court when they refused to talk.

Speaking of grand juries and break-ins, there have been more incidents reported this week: It's getting difficult to keep track of them. A grand jury indicted eight Vietnam Veterans Against the War for alleged conspiracy to disrupt the Republican National Convention, and they're currently on trial in Gainesville, Fla. Carol Scott, an attorney for them, says that her records were burglarized and ^{the} file on Scott Camil one of the VVAW defendants, was stolen. That case, in itself, is based on the testimony of an admitted agent who infiltrated VVAW. Michael Lerner, former Berkeley activist and one of the defendants in a Seattle conspiracy trial for anti-war activities several years ago, reports that his home was broken into at that time. Gerald Leftcourt, New York attorney, who is among those representing people on bombing and conspiracy charges in Detroit allegedly ^{connected} ~~connected~~ to the Weather underground, says his office was raided and files on one of the defendants, Mark Rudd, ransacked.. And, KPFA received a communication from the North Carolina State Political Prisoners Committee which reports a letter they've written to the Senate Watergate Committee concerning the break-in and stealing of ~~bank~~ records at the home of Dr. James Grant. Grant is a black political leader now serving 10 years in jail. The committee says federal agents were involved in the case. Add this to the reported break-ins of Chilean diplomats, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Washington Free Press, and lest it be thought that such activities have ended, the Dade County, Fla., district attorney, who has been investigating the laundering of funds for the Nixon campaign through Mexican banks, has also reported a break-in. [end item]