

# Ehrlichman Refuses to Confirm or Deny

## HOUSE UNIT HEARS EX-AIDE TO NIXON

He Is Quoted as Saying He Supported 'Some Sort of Proposal' in Coast Case

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 13 — John D. Ehrlichman refused today either to confirm or to deny that he had approved a memorandum reportedly describing in detail the 1971 plans to burglarize the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

However, he was quoted as having told a House Armed Services subcommittee that he had approved "some sort of proposal" involved in a White House investigation of Dr. Ellsberg and the Pentagon papers case.

Mr. Ehrlichman, the former domestic affairs counselor to President Nixon, appeared unruffled but slightly tired as he emerged from six hours of questioning by the subcommittee—a marathon session without a break for lunch.

Asked about the memorandum, he replied: "I don't want to admit, deny or comment on anything just now."

And with that, he hurried to a waiting elevator, pausing only to give his autograph to a shrieking, pig-tailed teen-ager who had been waiting to see him.

Government sources say that the memorandum — reportedly sent to Mr. Ehrlichman by two other White House aides, David Young and Egil Krogh Jr., in the late summer of 1971 — has been turned over to the Watergate prosecutors by Mr. Young.

### Approval Reported

Those close to the Watergate investigation have said that Mr. Young is prepared to testify in court that Mr. Ehrlichman saw the document and approved the burglary operation.

The memorandum would see to contradict a statement Mr. Ehrlichman made to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on April 27. In that statement, Mr. Ehrlichman said that he had no prior knowledge of the burglary of the psychiatrist's office on Sept. 3, 1971, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

While Mr. Ehrlichman refused to discuss any of his testimony given to the House panel today, he was quoted later by Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, as having testified that he had approved "some sort of proposal" involving the inquiry on the Pentagon papers, a secret study of the war in Vietnam.

Mr. Nedzi said that Mr. Ehrlichman had conceded that the memorandum "may have" included a proposal for going to the West Coast to investigate Dr. Ellsberg but that he "did not recollect" anything in the memo referring to an actual break-in.

"He told us that he did approve a proposal, but the substance was not made clear," Mr. Nedzi said.

### A Number of Panels

The House subcommittee, of which Mr. Nedzi is chairman, is one of several Congressional panels, in addition to the Senate's special Watergate committee hearings, that is investigating efforts of White House aides to involve the Central Intelligence Agency in the Watergate affair.

The office burglary of Dr. Ellsberg's former psychiatrist was reportedly supervised by E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, who at the time were members of White House unit dubbed "the plumbers."

The group, directed by Mr. Young and Mr. Krogh, had been established to investigate leaks of Government documents and other information after publication of the Pentagon papers by The New York Times and other newspapers in 1971.

Mr. Nedzi said that Mr. Ehrlichman told the subcommittee that he did not recall having asked the C.I.A. in the summer of 1971 to give assistance to Hunt, who later was involved in both the Ellsberg burglary and the Watergate break-in of Democratic National Committee headquarters on June 17, 1972.

Mr. Ehrlichman also told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee two weeks ago that he could not recall having telephoned the C.I.A. to ask it to assist Hunt.

This testimony conflicts with that given by Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., at that time deputy director of the C.I.A. and now commandant of the Marine Corps. General Cushman has told several Congressional committees in recent weeks that Mr. Ehrlichman telephoned him in the summer of 1971 and asked that the agency give Hunt whatever assistance he asked for.

It was on the basis of that telephone call, General Cushman testified, that the agency provided Hunt with a wig, a device to alter the voice, a small camera and various identification papers subsequently used in the California break-in. General Cushman and other C.I.A. officials have maintained, however, that they were unaware of the use to be made of the equipment.

Mr. Nedzi said that various

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## Approving

## Ellsberg

## Burglary Memo

parts of the Ehrlichman testimony today conflicted with testimony given to the subcommittee by others who have been questioned, including present and past top officials of the C.I.A.

Saying that many of the witnesses have suffered from "lapses of memory," Representative Nedzi suggested that "this has become a rampant disease in Washington at this time."

"Is it curable?" he was asked. "I doubt it," he replied, grinning.

Mr. Nedzi also disclosed that John W. Dean 3d, former White House counsel, had been subpoenaed to appear before the subcommittee on Friday.

However, Mr. Nedzi said he

had been requested by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., of North Carolina, the chairman of the Senate's Watergate investigating committee, to postpone the questioning until after Mr. Dean's appearance before the Senate panel.

Noting that Mr. Dean had refused to answer grand jury questions yesterday, on the ground of possible self-incrimination, Mr. Nedzi indicated that the House panel would probably grant the Ervin request.

"Otherwise, it might be a futile exercise for us," he said. "After all, Mr. Dean has been granted immunity by the Senate but not by the House."

Mr. Dean is expected to testify before the Ervin committee next week.

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