

KPFA, Berkeley, Calif..  
6:30 p.m. news

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Announcer -- ....Daniel Ellsberg has his own ideas on Nixon's future and path plan, as we hear from Dennis Levit [Los Angeles]:

Levit: Daniel Ellsberg said last night he feels President Nixon will be removed from office, either by resignation or impeachment. Speaking before an American Civil Liberties Union benefit, which was recorded by Herschel Lyman, Ellsberg also elaborated on the Reichstag [fire] theory of Watergate. Briefly, the theory says that Operation Gemstone was an elaborate espionage and assault plan, with which the White House would attempt a coup de main, totally taking over the government with Nixon remaining in office indefinitely.

Ellsberg (voice): I don't think, as of this month, that Richard Nixon meant to be out of office in 1977. At least possibly, I think that he meant to be around in the White House, that that's at least a possibility. And I think the change was going to be that serious and that formal -- that's more speculative.

Levit: Ellsberg also said that he felt Nixon was motivated by the fear he had during and after the 1968 presidential campaign.

Ellsberg (voice): In the last three years, if you ask why this has been happening in the last three years, or four years, as we now know it has been, in a word the election of 1968 scared Richard Nixon. Because it was much too close, given the plight of the Democratic Party in 1968. It shouldn't have been that close, and he came into office scared.

Levit: And, as for the future in the light of the Watergate revelations, Ellsberg said:

Ellsberg (voice): I don't believe that the President will stay in office. That's possible. Whether it's desirable or not -- you know, you hear people say, we'd rather have him in as a crippled -- politically crippled President -- than have Agnew, or have an impeachment. I don't think it's in the cards, whether it's good ~~(to)~~ bad, because I think that the criminal activity of the President, much of which he has essentially admitted at this point -- -- we've just seen the beginning of that. I think there will be a great deal more revelation of criminal activity by the President, and it will just be not tolerable not to let the legal processes operate on him. So I think they will remove him from office, whether by resignation or impeachment.

Levit: Daniel Ellsberg, speaking to an ACLU benefit. This is Dennis Levit, Pacific Radio, Los Angeles..

Announcer: And, the latest bumper sticker seen around ~~Berkeley~~ Berkeley was "Amnesty for the President."

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(See also KPFA summary of Watergate hearings, 28 Jun 73, cassette No. 15, interview of Donald Freed at end of