

Ellsberg's

Angry Reply To Testimony

Los Angeles

Quietly but angrily, Daniel Ellsberg yesterday called implications by John Ehrlichman that Ellsberg leaked the Pentagon Papers to the Russians "silly and slanderous."

"False, deceptive and self-serving," Ellsberg said in a news conference on the former Nixon domestic affairs adviser's testimony before the Senate Watergate committee.

Ellsberg added: "I resent it deeply." He called Ehrlichman's charges "the actions of a desperate man."

Ellsberg and Anthony Russo were indicted on espionage, conspiracy and other charges in connection with furnishing the Pentagon Papers a history of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War to the New York Times.

But the case was dismissed May 11 by U.S. District Judge Matthew Byrne after revelations that White House special investigators (known informally as the "plumbers") had broken into the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

In the course of "trying to justify what cannot be justified — the break-in," Ellsberg said, Ehrlichman made

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three allegations:

- That there was "a foreign intelligence involvement."

- That there was "a great uncertainty in the White House" over the leak of the Pentagon Papers to the press and that this justified the break-in.

- That the White House had been forced to make its own investigation of Ellsberg because the late J. Edgar Hoover had "a close relationship" with Ellsberg's father-in-law, Louis Marx, and the FBI was dragging its feet.

"To suggest that I or anyone associated with me would give any information to any foreign power is totally false," Ellsberg said. "In two years of prosecution, the government made no such allegations — which would have strengthened their case immeasurably."

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In any event, he insisted, "the Russians were getting the information for ten cents a day (the cost of buying a newspaper), which was about all it was worth to them."

As for "uncertainty" about who all was involved in the Pentagon Papers leak, Ellsberg said the FBI thoroughly investigated him a year before the indictment and talked to all his relatives and associates.

Turning to the supposed "close relationship" between Hoover and his father-in-law, Ellsberg said Marx "may have met Mr. Hoover 30 years ago in a large group," but never again had any contact with him.

He said Marx was interviewed quickly by the FBI — "which knew within minutes who had leaked the Pentagon Papers" — and that the wealthy toy manufacturer cooperated because "he admired the FBI."

Marx, he added, "has not had an conversation with me since the indictment." He said his father-in-law supports the Nixon administration and "doesn't like me



UPI Telephoto

DANIEL ELLSBERG
'Silly and slanderous'

much any more."

Ellsberg said the psychiatrist's office break-in was ordered by "the White House gang" because "the FBI wouldn't do it" and because of dissatisfaction with a Central Intelligence Agency profile "which said that I had done what I did for patriotic motives."

He called any suggestion that he would give the papers to the Soviet Union "false and ironic" and observed that the Nixon administration "has gone far toward a Soviet-type government."

"When Mr. Brezhnev came here to be bugged in the Oval Office, he must have felt very much at home," he added.

At yesterday's Senate Watergate committee hearing, Senator Lowell Weicker (Rep-Conn.) suggested that the real reason for the break-in at the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist was not national security but an attempt to "smear" Ellsberg.

He quoted from an Aug. 26, 1971, memo from "plumber" David Young to Ehrlichman which said, "We have already started on a negative pressimage for Ellsberg. If the present Hunt-Liddy Project No. 1 is successful, it will be absolutely essential to have an overall game plan developed for its use in conjunction with the Congressional investigation."

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