

NYTimes AUG 1 1973 Leak of Ellsberg's Psychiatric Files Reportedly Planned by Aides of Nixon

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 31—Despite assertions by President Nixon and some of his top aides that Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatric records were sought only to assist a national security investigation, some key figures in the White House intended to leak the confidential material to the press to discredit Dr. Ellsberg and damage his "image," according to sources familiar with the operation.

John D. Ehrlichman, Mr. Nixon's former chief domestic adviser, told the Senate Watergate investigating committee last week that he approved two years ago a "covert" attempt to obtain Dr. Ellsberg's psychiatric history to help the White House "crack what was at that moment the largest raid on top secret documents that had ever been made in the history of this government."

He referred to the release to the press by Dr. Ellsberg in early 1971 of most of the classified Pentagon papers study of the Vietnam war.

Mr. Ehrlichman, who resigned from the White House April 30, testified that the material had been needed for a psychiatric "profile" of Dr. Ellsberg, a former Defense Department and Rand Corporation official, to help determine what his motives had been for releasing the documents, whether he had acted alone or as part of a group, and what he might do next.

"Not for Gossip"

"This is not simply an effort to pick up gossip," he added.

However, a memorandum written to Mr. Ehrlichman on Aug. 26, 1971, and initialed by him shows that some in the White House hoped to use data gathered by what was labeled "Hunt-Liddy Project Number 1" to create a "negative press image" for Dr. Ellsberg by leaking the information to the press through the House Armed Services Committee.

Senate sources and others confirmed today that the "Hunt-Liddy Project Number 1" mentioned by David R. Young, the author of the Aug. 26, 1971, memorandum, was a reference to the attempt a week later to obtain Dr. Ellsberg's file from the office of a Los Angeles psychiatrist who had treated him for two years.

Mr. Young, who was then a member of the White House "plumbers" unit investigating

was "too big to be undermined by planted leaks among the friendly press," and he suggested that "if there is to be any damaging of Ellsberg's image and those associated with him, it will therefore be necessary to fold in the press planting with the Congressional investigation."

The conduit for the confidential information on Dr. Ellsberg was to have been Charles W. Colson, at the time a special counsel to President Nixon, according to the Young memorandum.

"I mentioned these points to Colson earlier this week, and his reply was that we should just leave it to him and he would take care of getting the information out," the document said.

A source close to Mr. Colson, who has admitted raising \$5,000 from nongovernment sources to finance the Ellsberg operation confirmed that "Colson was supposed to leak" the

Ellsberg, information to the press once it was secured by the plumbers' team, which was headed by G. Gordon Liddy, who was later convicted in the Watergate wiretapping case, and E. Howard Hunt Jr., who pleaded guilty in that case.

"If this guy was 'flake,' they wanted to use it to discredit him," the source said. But he added that Mr. Colson had not known that the money he raised would be used to finance a burglary at the office of the psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis I. Fielding, who had earlier refused to be interviewed by agents or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Ehrlichman told the Senate committee last week that he also had not known that the burglary would take place, and that he had expected Hunt and Liddy to use legal undercover methods to obtain the files, which the burglars were

unable to locate in Dr. Field-

No continuation