

Testimony before Ervin committee by L. Patrick Gray, on file removed from Hunt's safe. Gray describes meeting with Dean and Ehrlichman in Ehrlichman's office, 28 Jun 72, 6:30 p.m., and continues:

I then left Mr. Ehrlichman's office with the two manila envelopes containing the files, went to my car, placed the files in my briefcase and proceeded to my apartment. I placed the files on a closet shelf under my shirts. After two or three weeks I took them into the office and placed them in my personal safe.

To the best of my recollection I removed the files to my home in Stonington, Connecticut, in late September or Early October, 1972, and placed them in a chest of drawers in the area just outside my bedroom. I intended to burn them but I did not get around to doing so until after my illness, hospitalization and convalescence in the latter half of November and December. I distinctly recall that I burned them during Christmas week, with the Christmas and household paper trash that had accumulated immediately following Christmas.

To this point I had not read or examined the files, but immediately before putting them in the fire I opened one of the files. It contained what appeared to be copies of top-secret State Department cablegrams. I read the first cable. I do not recall the exact language but the text of the cable implicated officials of the Kennedy administration in the assassination of President Diem of South Vietnam. I had no reason then to doubt the authenticity of the cable and was shaken at what I read. I thumbed through the other cables in this file. They appeared to be duplicates of the first cable. I merely thumbed through the second file and noted that it contained onion-skin copies of correspondence. I did not absorb the subject matter of the correspondence, and do not today, of my own knowledge, know what it was.

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[Gray had said earlier that he burned the files 3 Jul 72 - See SFChronicle 27 Apr 73.]