

Hoover Felt 'Sorry' for Ellsberg Kin

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The late J. Edgar Hoover felt "sorry" for his friend, Louis Marx, and personally told him the FBI was "going to investigate hell out of his son-in-law," Daniel Ellsberg, according to syndicated columnist Andrew Tully.

This account differs from that of Ellsberg, who said July 26 that Marx, a millionaire toy manufacturer, met Hoover only once, 30 years ago, and had neither spoken with him nor met with him since.

Former White House aide John Ehrlichman told the Senate Watergate committee that the White House suspected the bureau was not vigorously pursuing an investigation of Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers

case because of Hoover's friendship with Marx.

That suspicion, according to Ehrlichman, led to the formation of the "plumbers," a special White House unit charged with plugging leaks. G. Gordon Liddy, a member of that unit, and fellow Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt subsequently burglarized the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Tully interviewed Hoover in January, 1972, with the understanding that "historically relevant" portions could be made public following his death.

According to Tully, Hoover told him, "I'm sorry for Louie Marx. We've been friends for more than 25 years, and he's a decent man who's done a lot for charity. But I had to tell him we were going to investigate hell out of his son-in-law.

"It's a sad case from Marx's point of view," Hoover said. "But I talked to Louie on the phone a couple of times and told him the bureau was giving it top priority. I hated to, but I also asked him if he knew anything about Ellsberg's activities and he said he didn't—that he made it a point to know as little as possible about what Ellsberg was doing. A couple of agents went to see Marx and his wife and they came up empty-handed."

Tully wrote that Hoover spoke "warmly" of Marx, but not of Ellsberg. "I'll be goddamned if I understand it, but a lot of those liberal intellectuals seem to manage to marry rich wives, despite all their pious talk," Hoover said.

"I don't know whether Ellsberg is guilty or inno-

cent, but I know Louis Marx is all broken up. I'd have given Ellsberg a swift kick long ago, but I suppose there's nothing a father can do if his daughter goes gaga about somebody," he said.

Hoover, according to Tully, knew of the White House interest in the case, but did not discuss it personally with President Nixon. Hoover did, however, recall that "some amateur sleuth from the White House came over here last summer and complained to one of my men.

"This jasper said he was a member of a special unit formed to plug security leaks. I told my man he should have thrown the guy out," Hoover said.

Liddy has been reported to have had a meeting with FBI officials in 1971.