

CIA 'Duped' In Ellsberg Break-In

Washington

In the first formal report of a congressional panel investigating the Watergate scandal a House subcommittee declared unanimously yesterday that the Central Intelligence Agency had operated in a way that had no "support in reason or law."

The CIA and its highest officials, the subcommittee said, were "the unwitting dupes for purely domestic White House staff endeavors that were beyond the realm of CIA authority."

The panel — the special subcommittee on intelligence of the House Armed Services Committee — is responsible for overseeing the activities of the CIA.

Under the chairmanship of Representative Lucien N. Nedzi (Dem-Mich.), the subcommittee interviewed two dozen witnesses, including top officials of the White House and the CIA, in

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closed-door sessions last spring and summer.

The purpose of the inquiry was to determine the role of the agency in the watergate burglary and other administration activities such as the burglary at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

Most of the persons interviewed by the subcommittee have told their stories in public to the Senate Watergate committee and the House panel thus added little additional investigative data to the public record.

But, unlike the Watergate committee, which has not released a report of its findings, the armed services subcommittee attempted to evaluate the information it obtained from its interrogation.

Among the subcommittee's conclusions were the following:

- The CIA was operating outside the law, which prohibits its participation in purely domestic security matters, when it provided a disguise, false identification papers and other paraphernalia to E. Howard Hunt Jr., who was convicted in the Watergate conspiracy and who has acknowledged planning the Ellsberg burglary.

- It was "an abuse of CIA facilities" for the agency, at the insistence of top White House officials to prepare a psychological profile of Ellsberg.

- The CIA did not know it was being used for improper purposes and resisted later

efforts to involve the agency.

- John W. Dean III, the former White House counsel, put "tremendous pressure" on the FBI and the CIA to limit the early Watergate investigation. H.R. Haldeman, former presidential chief of staff, and John D. Ehrlichman, former White House domestic counselor, also tried to "deflect" the FBI's work "by invoking nonexistent conflicts with CIA operations.

- "Requests from top level White House aides in the present administration were, almost without exception, taken as orders from people who were speaking for the President."

- These aides avoided Ri-

chard Helms, then CIA director, and dealt instead with his deputies, General Robert E. Cushman Jr. and later General Vernon A. Walters, both of whom owed their positions to President Nixon.

The subcommittee said that it is preparing legislation that would prohibit the CIA from any domestic functions without the personal authorization of the President.

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