

Strange CIA Watergate Memo**Washington**

Former CIA director Richard M. Helms ordered his deputy 11 days after the Watergate break-in, to request that the FBI confine its investigation "to personalities already arrested or under suspicion."

The June 28, 1972, memo to General Vernon A. Walters also urged that the FBI be requested to "desist from expanding this investigation into other areas which may, eventually, run afoul of our operations."

The Helms memorandum

appears to be in sharp conflict with testimony by the former CIA director to five congressional committees and federal prosecutors investigating the June 17, 1972, break-in and subsequent coverup conspiracy.

It emerged, in part, in the recently released transcript of a Senate Armed Service Committee executive session dealing with the confirmation of William E. Colby as CIA director. *

The direction of testimony both by Helms and Walters, as well as other principals in the case, has been that des-

pite heavy White House pressure the CIA steadfastly denied that FBI inquiries into Watergate matters would expose CIA activities.

President Nixon, by his own statement and the testimony of top White House aides, initially raised this concern when the FBI was on the verge of investigating the channeling of funds through Mexico which established a link between the break-in team and the Nixon re-election committee.

Colby, in a series of written responses to Senator Sam Nunn (Dem-Ga.), said

that Helms' memo to Walters was "consistent with our concern that investigations might reveal CIA activities and our belief that they were unnecessary since CIA had no involvement with the Watergate incident."

White House pressures directed at Helms, Walters and acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III had the effect of delaying the Mexican investigation from June 22 to July 10, when the first FBI interviews were conducted in Mexico City.

CIA officials declined to divulge the full memo or comment on the apparent contradiction between the earlier public testimony by CIA officials and the assertions in the Helms memo to Walters.

The FBI leads were focused specifically on Nixon re-election funds which were "laundered" through a Mexico City bank from Texas contributors to the safe of the President's 1972 re-election raiser Maurice Stans. The money was ultimately traced to the account of convicted Watergate conspirator Bernard Barker.

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*Colby testifies before committee 2 Jul 73, sworn in 4 Sep 73 - filed CIA. Have no date for "written responses."