

# Helms Memo on Watergate Disclosed

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 2 — Richard Helms, former Director of Central Intelligence, wrote a memorandum 11 days after the Watergate burglary that could be construed as showing that he tried to limit the Federal Bureau of Investigation's inquiry into the burglary.

However, one Representative familiar with the matter said that such an interpretation would not be accurate.

In his public testimony before the Senate Watergate committee and in closed testimony to four other Congressional panels, Mr. Helms said that he had resisted heavy White House pressure to restrict the F.B.I.'s investigation.

The full memorandum that Mr. Helms wrote to his deputy, Lieut. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, on June 28, 1972, has not been made public. But a passage from it appears in an edited transcript of Senate hearings last July on the confirmation of the present C.I.A. director, William E. Colby.

That passage contains instructions from Mr. Helms to General Walters to request that the F.B.I. "confine themselves to the personalities already arrested or under suspicion."

Mr. Helms further asked Mr. Walters to see that the bureau "desist from expanding this other areas which may well eventually run afoul of our operations."

The memorandum is in the possession of the Senate Armed Services Committee, a House Armed Services subcommittee that investigated the role of the C.I.A. in the Watergate affair and the Senate Watergate committee.

All three panels refused today to release the full memorandum. But Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, chairman of the House subcommittee, said that to interpret the passage to mean that Mr. Helms had tried to put strings on the Watergate investigation would be "not accurate."

Asked if he felt that Mr. Helms had lied when he told Mr. Nedzi's subcommittee that

he had resisted pressure to stop the investigation, the Michigan Democrat replied, "Not so far as I'm concerned."

Mr. Nedzi's subcommittee released a report Tuesday that concluded that the C.I.A. and its top officials had been the "unwitting dupes" of White House aides involved in the Watergate burglary, but that the agency withstood pressure to become involved in the cover-up of the burglary.

Mr. Nedzi interpreted the passage from the Helms memorandum to mean that the former director was concerned over a possible "free-wheeling kind of operation" in which F.B.I. agents would be set loose to investigate C.I.A. personnel. Mr. Helms was not trying to curb the bureau's inquiry, only to insure that it went through proper channels, Mr. Nedzi said.

Mr. Helms, who is now Ambassador to Iran, could not be reached today, and both the C.I.A. and General Walters refused to comment on the matter.