

Pentagon's View of Ellsberg

Washington

President Nixon authorized the prosecution of Daniel Ellsberg after publication of the Pentagon Papers in June, 1971, even though the Defense Department objected to the court case on national security grounds, well-placed sources said yesterday.

The sources, publicly disclosing for the first time the Pentagon's objections to the Ellsberg trial, noted that the military, for similar national security reasons, officially objected to the pending prosecution six months later of two Navy men accused of funneling unauthorized documents from the White House to the Pentagon.

In that case, however, Mr. Nixon reversed his position and barred the prosecutions for what were called "national security" reasons.

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