

# Hunt Says Burglary Was His Idea

Washington

E. Howard Hunt Jr. testified yesterday he proposed a "bag job" (a burglary) at the office of Dr. Lewis J. Fielding in 1971 after the Beverly Hills psychiatrist refused to co-operate with FBI agents investigating Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg.

Both Fielding, who said he gave intensive treatment to Ellsberg between 1968 and 1970, and Hunt, a former member of the White House "Plumbers" special investigative unit and mastermind of the 1972 Watergate break-in, testified as the government began its conspiracy case against John D. Ehrlichman and three others.

The so-called Ellsberg burglary trial, now in its third day, was recessed until Monday with Hunt still in the witness chair.

The first 3½ hours of testimony yesterday disclosed little new information.

The "Plumbers" were organized in the summer of 1971 after Ellsberg leaked the so-called Pentagon Papers to newspapers. Ehrlichman, once President Nixon's No. 2 aide, was placed in charge, and Hunt, a former CIA agent for 21 years, was employed as a White House

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consultant and attached to the group.

Fielding confirmed in his testimony that he refused the request of two FBI agents during the summer of 1971 for medical information about Ellsberg.

Hunt, testifying under immunity from further prosecution, said he learned of Fielding's refusal after he was brought to the White House in July, 1971, by former presidential special counsel Charles W. Colson, who has pleaded guilty to obstruction in the Ellsberg case.

"It seemed to me a bag job was in order," Hunt said. Asked to define his term, Hunt replied, "surreptitious entry."

At the end of the day, associate special prosecutor William H. Merrill said he believed the prosecution would complete its presentation by next Friday.

Fielding said Beverly Hills police assured him the break-in, committed on the Friday night of the 1971 Labor Day weekend, was made in search of drugs.

But he added, "I had a vague impression that some records pertaining to Ellsberg were missing, but I couldn't be sure, I couldn't be sure."

Fielding said that when he arrived at his office after the burglary "it was a mess." He said he found Ellsberg's records removed from their envelope and lying on top of it.

It has been testified previously that Hunt reported that the break-in had been unproductive.

Hunt testified that initially, he and G. Gordon Liddy, another defendant in the Watergate break-in, planned

to pull the Ellsberg break-in themselves. He said he instead recruited Bernard L. Barker and Eugenio Martinez to avoid any connection with the White House if they were caught.

Ehrlichman, Liddy, Barker and Martinez are charged with lying to the

## More Watergate-related news on Page 8.

FBI and the Watergate grand jury about the break-in.

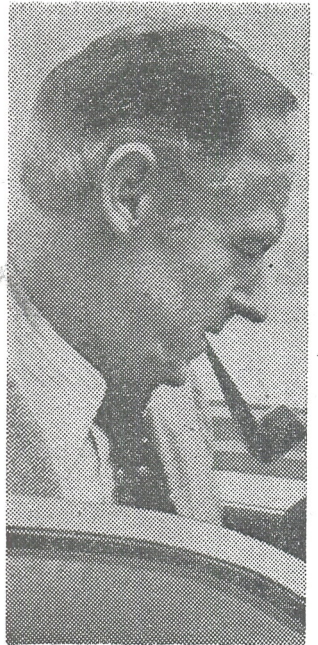
As Ehrlichman looked on intently and soberly, Merrill charged that the break-in was "the willful, arrogant act of men who took the law into their own hands because they thought they were above the law."

Merrill also charged in his opening argument that "Ehrlichman lied" to investigators after the break-in became public knowledge in April, 1973, because "he thought he could get away from it."

He said he could prove that Ehrlichman first approved the break-in a memo he wrote Aug. 11, 1971. Then, Merrill said, Ehrlichman gave the final go-ahead while he was vacationing on Cape Code August 31 in a telephone call in which he said: "Okay, let me know if you find anything."

Henry H. Jones, one of Ehrlichman's four lawyers, said that as "nominal" leader of the White House "Plumbers" special investigative unit, Ehrlichman approved a "covert" operation to learn about Ellsberg's motives in leaking the Pentagon Papers on the Vietnam war. But Jones said Ehrlichman did not specifically approve a burglary at Fielding's office.

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UPI Telephoto

E. HOWARD HUNT  
He defined 'bag job'



AP Wirephoto

DR LEWIS FIELDING  
He told of break-in