

Longer story, NYT,
filed CIA (d).

SF Chronicle SEP 24 1975

Aide Denies

Nixon Knew Of Snooping

Washington

An intelligence adviser to former President Nixon testified yesterday that neither he nor, to the best of his knowledge, Mr. Nixon himself had any knowledge that burglaries, mail openings and other illegal practices were being carried out by federal intelligence agencies during the Nixon administration.

Tom Charles Huston, the architect of a controversial 1970 proposal for an expanded and reorganized domestic surveillance effort, said the Huston plan might never have existed "if we had known that many of the tools we were asking for were already being used and weren't getting any results."

Mr. Nixon approved the Huston plan, which recommended that "present restrictions" against the use of burglaries and mail openings by intelligence agents be lifted, in July, 1970, but rescinded his approval five days later.

Senator Frank Church (Dem-Ida.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, before which Houston appeared, asserted that the intelligence agencies involved "paid no heed to the revocation."

Church drew a parallel between Huston's statement and the revelation during committee hearings last week that an official of the Central Intelligence Agency had failed, despite a presidential

directive from Mr. Nixon, to destroy a quantity of shellfish toxin in the agency's possession.

The Nixon administration's domestic surveillance plan was formulated by Huston and representatives of the federal intelligence agencies in the spring of 1970.

The plan's recommendations that caused the greatest furor when they became public during the Senate Watergate committee's hearings in 1973 were those recommended the removal of "restrictions" on break-ins and mail openings.

Mr. Nixon's approval of those proposals formed the basis for one of the three articles of impeachment.

New York Times