

# National

## Nixon testifies he approved of secret break-ins by FBI

WASHINGTON — Richard Nixon, reliving the anger he felt toward anti-war groups while in office, says the FBI was justified in conducting secret break-ins in 1972 and 1973 to find radicals linked to a series of bombings.

Nixon walked into a packed federal courtroom Wednesday and told a jury he felt he had delegated authority to the FBI to conduct such break-ins.

Testifying at the trial of two former FBI officials, Nixon said, in 1970 he approved a White House plan for widespread surveillance, including break-ins, against domestic groups.

He told the jury he revoked the plan when FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover objected to it. But Nixon made clear his action did not forbid the FBI from conducting further break-ins.

He testified for 45 minutes at the six-and-a-half week old trial of W. Mark Felt and Edward S. Miller, the FBI's former No. 2 and No. 3 men, charged with approving nine illegal break-ins in hopes

of finding fugitive members of the militant Weather Underground.

The prosecution finished with rebuttal witnesses Thursday after calling Nicholas Katzenbach — the fifth former attorney general to testify about break-in policies. It is uncertain whether the case would go to the jury today.

Nixon's testimony was marred briefly, moments after he took the oath, by three leftist sympathizers shouting "murderer," "liar," "genocide," "war criminal."

He sat stone-faced as they called him names. He resumed his testimony after they were ejected from the courtroom.

Sometimes smiling nervously to the jury, Nixon urged the panel to think back to the climate of Vietnam era in deciding whether the FBI had cause to conduct the Weather Underground break-ins.

"What I am saying is that at the time, as far as my actions were concerned and the actions of others, we must recognize things

were quite different than they are today," said Nixon.

He said "there were reports — that I considered to be hard evidence — the Weather Underground had foreign connections."

Nixon said he always was concerned about terrorist activities — especially in wartime when terrorism "may create attitudes in this country that delay the end of the war, the end of the killing."

He said he would "particularly support" FBI surveillance to combat subversion, espionage and terrorism. Nixon said he believed the bureau had authority delegated from the president to conduct break-ins — without having to get approval from the attorney general.

At the time, Nixon said he was troubled by U.S. terrorist activities — which intensified as opposition to the Vietnam War heightened.

"We were at war. Without question, the policy (on surveillance) had to be influenced by that fact," Nixon said.

## Abilene man is co-author Birchers tied to Somoza book

MIAMI — The publisher of the President Anastasio Somoza's book, "Nicaragua Betrayed," is a subsidiary of the John Birch Society, a company spokesman said Wednesday.

The book accuses the Carter administration of having forced Somoza to resign, then breaking its promise to preserve Nicaragua's national guard.

The Western Islands publishing company was founded by former Somoza adviser Robert Welch a year after he established the ultra-conservative John Birch Society in 1958, said Gary Handy, an attorney for the publishing firm.

Cox then flew to Paraguay where Somoza had been living after his forced departure from Miami, the Miami Herald reported. Cox and

said. "Secondly, we also thought we could make some money."

Somoza ruled the country until the Sandinista revolution ousted him in July 1979. He was killed Sept. 17, 1980, in Asuncion, Paraguay, by a squad of assassins who blew his car apart with a bazooka and then sprayed him, his driver and an economic adviser with machine gun fire.

The book was co-authored by Somoza and an American journalist, Jack Cox of Abilene. Handy said Cox came "recommended" to Western Islands with the idea of writing a book about Somoza. Handy said Welch met Cox then "gave Mr. Cox the go-ahead."

Cox then flew to Paraguay where Somoza had been living after his forced departure from Miami, the Miami Herald reported. Cox and

Somoza worked together on the book for several months before Somoza's assassination.

Handy said the John Birch Society espouses anti-Communist causes, and "Nicaragua Betrayed" appeared to be a "fitting" enterprise given Somoza's well-known anti-Communist sentiments.

The book contains what it claims are transcripts of tapes made of highly sensitive conversations between Somoza and U.S. officials during the 1978-79 Nicaraguan crisis.

## New staph toxin seen as cause of syndrome

ATLANTA — Discovery of a new staphylococcus toxin is a promising lead in the search for the cause and cure of toxic shock syndrome, a medical researcher says.

Dr. Kathryn N. Shands, the national center for disease control's principal investigator of toxic shock syndrome, said the toxin discovered by UCLA microbiologist Dr. Patrick Schlievert could turn out to be an important development in the intensive toxic shock syndrome research at several medical centers.

"It may be that he has the right toxin," said Shands Wednesday. "But he should prove it definitely. So far, he has not done that to the satisfaction of the medical community."

The value of pinpointing the toxin responsible, she said, is that it would then be possible to develop an anti-toxin to deal with it.

Toxic shock syndrome is a newly recognized bacterial disease that primarily strikes menstruating young women. It produces a high fever, a sunburn-like rash, and a sudden, occasionally lethal, drop in blood pressure.

Tampons have been cited as a contributing factor in the incidence of the disease and one brand, Rely, has been removed from the market by its manufacturer. The CDC, which began its investigation of toxic shock syndrome last spring, said 420 cases and 40 deaths have been reported.

Shands, commenting on Schlievert's research, said, "He's found a new one (toxin) that nobody's found before."

Shands said there was no longer any medical doubt a common bacterial infection, staphylococcus aureus, was the cause of toxic shock syndrome. She said this type of infection, frequently seen in hospitals, produces more than 20 different kinds of toxins, or poisons, which in turn causes illness.

The toxin found by Schlievert previously was unknown to medical science, she said.

Shands said it is known that none of the routine staph toxins cause toxic shock syndrome, but it has not been ruled out that the disease could be

produced by the interaction between a known and unknown toxin or between two known toxins.

Schlievert, who is trying to convince the CDC he has found the guilty toxin, made his discovery some time ago. He says he can produce the bacteria in rabbits and save their lives with use of an anti-toxin.

There is no human anti-toxin, but Shands says one could be developed after more research.

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