

TIMES ASKS COURT TO SHIELD NOTES

Acts to Bar Reporter's Data
to Ehrlichman in Suit

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—The New York Times has filed a motion in United States District Court here to prevent lawyers for John D. Ehrlichman, a former aide to President Nixon, from forcing one of The Times's reporters to testify or turn over his notes

about an article written last July.

The article, written by E. W. Kenworthy of The Time's Washington Bureau, contained a report that a wiretap was put on a phone in the home of Mary Jo Kopechne, an aide to Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who drowned when a car the Senator was driving plunged from a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island in 1969.

A roommate of Miss Kopechne, Margaret Carroll, has filed a suit in District Court against Mr. Ehrlichman, John J. Caulfield and Anthony T. Ulasewicz, charging the three were involved in illegally tapping the phone. Mr. Caulfield and Mr. Ulasewicz have testified before the Senate Water-

gate committee that they had done such undercover work for the White House.

Mr. Kenworthy quoted "a source close to the Senate Watergate investigating committee" as saying that the wiretap was installed "either by or under the direction" of Mr. Caulfield and Mr. Ulasewicz, a former New York policeman, in the women's Georgetown home.

Miss Carroll said, in a deposition relating to the case, that she was basing her suit on The Times article and "an investigation by my attorneys" that Mr. Kenworthy's source was accurate.

Several affidavits were also filed with the motion on Mon-

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day, including a statement by A. M. Rosenthal, managing editor of the Times. Speaking of the rose of an investigative reporter, Mr. Rosenthal said, "He more than any is dealing in areas where information is hidden, not revealed, and where the price of being identified as the source comes prohibitively high."

"Every reporter in every field needs this confidence," Mr. Rosenthal said. "The investigative reporter and his work cease to exist without it."

Floyd Abrahams, an attorney representing The Times, said today that he expected the motion to be argued before District Court Judge June L. Green "within the month."

SPECTER MAY DIRECT NIXON LAWYER TEAM

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—District Attorney Arlen Specter of Philadelphia has discussed joining President Nixon's team of lawyers in the Watergate case, the White House said today.

Gerald L. Warren, the White House deputy press secretary, said, however, that no decision had been reached on the matter. The Philadelphia Bulletin, in a copyrighted article today, said that Mr. Specter would head the defense team and had accepted the job.

The District Attorney's office in Philadelphia said that Mr. Specter was returning tonight after visiting relatives in Wichita, Kan. A tape-recorded comment from Mr. Specter was offered in which he said he planned to go into private practice after Jan. 7.

"I am now taking on clients and cases," the recorded voice said. "At this time, I consider it inappropriate to discuss any prospective client or any prospective cases."

Mr. Specter on Nov. 6 sought and lost a third four-year term in Philadelphia city elections. He headed Mr. Nixon's reelection campaign in Pennsylvania last year.