Post 9/29/71

U.S. Admits Weatherman Wiretap Acts

DETROIT (AP)—The U.S. government has acknowledged that it conducted electronic surveillance on five members of the Weatherman radical faction under indictment here for allegedly plotting a bomb terror campaign.

U.S. Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell admitted to the surveillance in an affidavit filed Monday with U.S. District Court Judge Philip Pratt. The surveillance was not court-authorized.

In the affidavit, filed at the request of defense lawyers, Mitchell said conversations of Mark Rudd, 24, of New York, Linda Sue Evans, 24, Fort Dodge, Iowa, Dianne Donghi, 22, New York, Jane Spielman, 22, New York and Russell Neufield, 22, Boston, were monitored.

The five are among 13 persons named in grand jury indictments handed down July 23, 1970. The indictments arose from a meeting of the Weatherman in Flint, Mich., earlier that year.

U.S. District Court Judge Lamon J. Keith ruled in an unrelated case in January that the government can monitor without a warrant only in cases involving foreign espionage. That ruling has been upheld by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case this fall.

Under precedents established, Pratt may now order the government to give the defendants logs of the surveillance or drop the case. However, he indicated Monday he may wait for the Supreme Court to rule.