

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1971

Ramsey Clark Again Denies Knowledge of Surveillance Planning

By IRVING SPIEGEL

Ramsey Clark, the former Attorney General, reiterated yesterday his denial of having any knowledge of government surveillance of political dissidents while he served in the Johnson Administration.

Mr. Clark asserted at a news conference at the Plaza Hotel here that he "never saw any documents and did not know what was in them," Mr. Clark also rejected a report that President Johnson had any

knowledge of these alleged activities either.

Making his remarks before he spoke at the annual luncheon meeting of the New York chapter of the American Jewish Committee, Mr. Clark said: "I don't think there was any authority for governmental surveillance from the President of the United States and I know there was no authority from the Attorney General of the United States."

A dispatch from Washington in The New York Times Saturday reported that Government officials had made known documents indicating the extent of the involvement of President Johnson and Mr. Clark in the planning of such surveillance.

Questions F.B.I. Role

Mr. Clark, who on previous occasions has called for the resignation of J. Edgar Hoover as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said that "hundreds of thousands of Americans are very skeptical about the role of the F.B.I. in its healthy [and] essential to their

investigative activities."

Wiretapping, Mr. Clark added, "linkers with the foundations of individual integrity." In an indictment of the Nixon Administration for approving the use of "electronic devices for surveillance," Mr. Clark said: "I think it is terribly unfortunate that the Nixon Administration has affirmatively endeavored to convince the American people that electronic wiretapping, is essential to their

safety. I think the Nixon Administration is wrong."

The former Attorney General said that he doubted that accusations of surveillance of members of Congress were true, but that fear of such activity could harm the nation.

During the luncheon, the 1971 Stanley M. Isaacs Human Relations Award was presented to Jack Greenberg, director of the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.