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Kleindienst On the FBI, Antitrust

Washington

Richard G. Kleindienst, President Nixon's nominee for Attorney General, said yesterday he favors firm enforcement of the antitrust laws and secrecy for FBI files which might affect a person's private life.

"I don't like surveillance by government in a free society," Kleindienst said. "I don't want them snooping on me, or anyone else."

LAWS

Kleindienst, who was expected to receive Senate approval of his nomination, told Congress, "Without any qualification whatsoever I support the vigorous enforcement of the antitrust laws."

The sharpest attack on the Kleindienst nomination came from Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.). He attacked the record of the justice department during Kleindienst's tenure as deputy attorney general, claiming it has given the nation nothing but "glib rhetoric."

Under questioning by Kennedy, Kleindienst again defended the mass arrests of participants during the 1971 May Day anti-war demonstrations.

Of the arrest of an estimated 12,000 persons and failure to prosecute more than a handful, Kleindienst commented: "In my humble opinion, not only was there no damage done to the Constitution by the arrests, but it was scrupulously defended and preserved."

FILES

As for the FBI files, Kleindienst said they will be kept under the closest security. "I would even resist furnishing the Senate files from the FBI except under the most controlled, limited circumstances," Kleindienst said.

But Kleindienst said he believed the government had a right to keep under surveillance "persons who try to hide under the umbrella of demonstrations to engage in unlawful conduct."

"The government has a duty to inform itself, but I don't think it should spy on people or take movies if there is no illegal activity," he said.

United Press