Mitchell Testifies at Hearing On Legality of U.S. Wiretaps

challenging more than 500 FBI regarding wiretap re-Justice Department wiretaps quests. Klein

quest wiretaps.

In the hearing before U.S. sweep in 1969. District Court Judge William The cases were assigned to O. Mehrtens, Mitchell said he personally authorized all wire-tap requests when he was in Washington D.C. When Washington, D.C. When out of assistant, Saul Lindenbaum, charged with gambling viola-telephoned him and received tions, asked Mitchell if he ex-

Asked if anyone else were ithorized to sign requests, "I'm sure that the matter of * Asked if anyone else were lor a wiretap was evident. authorized to sign requests, Mitchell responded, "Not to my knowledge, although I have since been informed there may have been one or two cases in which someone else signed the documents." Mitchell repeatedly said he did not remember any doct.

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At issue was whether Con- ous persons arrested across dienst specific authorization." gress allowed only Mitchell the country in narcotics, gam-and eight assistants to seek bling, extortion, racketeering wiretaps from federal judges or whether Mitchell could au-there is a set of the set of thorize other persons to re. charged in "Operation Eagle," a major federal narcotics

James Hogan of Miami, an the city, he said his executive attorney representing a man authorizations.

did not remember any docu- tap authorization signed Aug.

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MIAMI, March 19 (AP)-ments shown him at the hear-17, 1970, by Richard G. Klein-Former U.S. Attorney General ing by defense attorneys. The dienst, Mitchell's successor as John N. Mitchell testified to- documents included memo- Attorney General and at that day at a hearing on a lawsuit randa from his staff and the time one of Mitchell's assist-

Asked if he authorized Justice Department wiretaps that all bugs he and his staff authorized were legal. duests. In the courtroom were 27 at-torneys representing numer- "I did not give Mr. Klein-