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U.S. Is Using 38 Wiretaps, Clark Says

By the Associated Press

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who controls authorizations for wiretapping by federal authorities, says 38 taps are in operation today.

The new attorney general said yesterday that he considers wiretapping justified only in cases of "national security where there is a direct threat to the security of this nation."

Other uses would be "incompatible with what we want for this country," he said on CBS.

"It is my judgment today that there are 38 wiretaps, there are no electronic surveillances otherwise, and that all of these are in the national security area," Clark said.

Clark was sworn in as attorney general on Friday.

Permission Written

An agency that wants to listen in on a telephone wire must submit a request to him, Clark said. Permission, if granted, is in writing.

Asked for comment about admitted government involvement in a number of cases of wiretapping not related to national security during Robert F. Kennedy's tenure as attorney general, Clark said, "I am not in the business of blaming anybody."

Kennedy, now a senator from New York, and J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have accused each other of being responsible for these disputed uses of wiretapping.

Clark was also asked to comment on the Warren commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald, identified as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, acted alone.

"Until there is evidence to the contrary," Clark said, "I will stand with the Warren commission."

Garrison Investigation

The findings of the commission are currently being challenged by New Orleans Dist. Atty. James Garrison.

Insisting there was a conspi-

racy, Garrison has made one arrest and promised more. But he has refused to share any new evidence he has with the government.

"I find it curious and I find it disturbing and I find it saddening," Clark said when asked about the district attorney's go-it-alone policy.

Clark said his department has made no move to investigate the allegations of misconduct against Adam Clayton Powell by the House. He said his department would rather stay out of the Powell case until Congress has finished with it.