

'Concentration Camps' Row Revived

P. 12/27/69 Justice Says Kleindienst Is Misquoted by Magazine

The Atlantic Monthly yesterday quoted Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst as saying that demonstrators interfering with others "should be rounded up and put in a detention camp."

The Justice Department, however, contends that its number two man was misquoted and that it has no such plans.

But the quotation appeared certain to provoke fresh charges that the Government is building "concentration camps" for dissenters. Despite repeated Government denials and the lack of visible evidence, such charges have won credence among Negroes, radicals and other protesters in recent years.

Elizabeth B. Drew, the magazine's Washington editor, quoted Kleindienst in an article for the May issue that focuses on differences

between the new regime at the Justice Department and its predecessor.

In the same article, she also quotes Will Wilson, the new head of Justice's Criminal Division, on student protesters:

"I think if you could get all of them in the penitentiary, you'd stop it. The ringleaders, I'm talking about" she quoted Wilson as saying.

On the topic of protesters in general, Mrs. Drew attributed these statements to Wilson:

"In the area of balancing the right of dissent against public order, my heavy leaning would be on the side of public order. On the question of where does free speech move towards public disturbance my answer would be 'pretty soon.'

"I wouldn't be tolerant of public disturbances because they were done by people with a good cause. . . . I'd call something a riot sooner

than many other people might. Don't you think that's the attitude generally of this Administration?"

Kleindienst, according to Mrs. Drew, also said that Congress should suppress the activities of such organizations as the radical Students for a Democratic Society "if that or any group was organized on a national basis to subvert our society."

She writes that Kleindienst also defended anti-Communist wiretapping and said "we're going to prosecute" the Federal law against draft-card burning.

He is quoted as saying, "I would encourage students to probe and seek, up to the time they would close down the institution which gives them freedom of expression."

Mrs. Drew writes that Kleindienst predicted the Nixon Justice Department

would be different "in various ways" from the Johnson Administration's. "If people demonstrated in a manner to interfere with others," she quotes Kleindienst, "they should be rounded up and put in a detention camp."

On that statement, a Justice Department spokesman said Kleindienst could not remember the exact wording of what he did say to Mrs. Drew. But in essence, the spokesman said, Kleindienst had said that student protesters should be rounded up and vigorously prosecuted by local law enforcement authorities.

"There has never been any discussion in the Department in this Administration of establishing detention camps for student demonstrators or any other demonstrators," the spokesman said.