

Brown Wiretap Hearing ^{S-1} Is Postponed Indefinitely _{9/24/69}

A Federal District Court hearing into whether the conviction of black power militant H. Rap Brown on a gun charge was a result of evidence secured by wiretapping has been postponed indefinitely.

The delay in the hearing, scheduled to begin here today, came because William M. Kunstler Jr., New York attorney for Brown, is in Chicago defending

eight persons arrested in connection with the disturbances at the Democratic National Convention in August, 1968.

Brown was convicted by a jury in the courtroom of Judge Lansing L. Mitchell on charges of transporting a carbine on a plane flight from New Orleans to New York while under indictment for arson in Maryland. Brown was acquitted on a charge of bringing the same gun to New Orleans on a prior flight.

YESTERDAY JUDGE Mitchell was told that both the federal government and unspecified state "authorities" wiretapped Brown's telephone.

A U.S. Justice Department memorandum filed in the case said the state wiretap "was not conducted at the request of the federal government."

In Baton Rouge, Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion said he did not request any electronics surveillance of Brown's conversations while Brown was in his home town of Baton Rouge.

"THE MAN didn't mean that much to me," he said. "If it was done by anybody else, it was not authorized by me. But of course if some other authorities—if anybody else did it—it wasn't at my suggestion nor was I aware of it."

"We have no knowledge at the state level of any wiretapping of H. Rap Brown," said Louis Quinn, executive secretary to Gov. John J. McKeithen.

In addition, both city officials and the parish district attorney's office in Baton Rouge denied tapping Brown's telephone.

A transcript of conversations monitored by the state "authorities" was sent to lawyers for Brown, one-time chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Federal monitor transcripts were not released. The federal wiretaps apparently were installed by the FBI and regarded as having been handled with proper legal process.