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Operative Texts

"The President . . . shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

*Constitution of the United States,
Art. II, Section 3.*

"I, Richard Nixon, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, so help me God."

*President Nixon, Jan. 20, 1969,
repeated Jan. 20, 1973*

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"Mail coverage. Covert coverage is illegal and there are serious risks involved. . . .

"Surreptitious entry. Use of this technique is clearly illegal; it amounts to burglary."

*Recommendations of the Interagency
Committee on Intelligence (ad hoc),
June 25, 1970*

"The President has carefully studied the special report of the Interagency Committee on Intelligence (ad hoc) and made the following decisions: . . .

"Mail coverage. Restrictions on covert coverage are to be relaxed. . . .

"Surreptitious entry. Restrictions on the use of surreptitious entry are to be removed."

*White House Decision Memorandum,
July 15, 1970.*

(Rescinded after protest by J. Edgar Hoover.)

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"I want the public to learn the truth about Watergate, and those guilty of any illegal actions brought to justice."

President Nixon, May 22, 1973