

Kleindienst 'satisfied' with Watergate probe

By Dennis D. Fisher

U.S. Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst said here Monday that he was "satisfied" with the investigation of the Watergate Hotel bugging incident and the successful prosecution of seven men responsible for it.

Kleindienst said in a press conference in the Federal Building, 219 S. Dearborn, "Next only I think to the investigation by the FBI into the circumstances of the tragic assassination of President Kennedy, this investigation of the Watergate matter was the most intensive that we have ever conducted.

"I am satisfied both from the standpoint of the U.S. attorney and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that they did an outstanding job."

He said President Nixon told him, "when this crazy, reprehensible nutty thing occurred, let the chips fall where they will. Go all the way with it. And that is what we did."

Asked if the seven who were convicted were the only ones responsible for political spying at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee, Kleindienst said:

"If there was direct testimony on any (before the federal grand jury) that 'X' was be-

hind those seven people, that would have been a violation of the law just as much as those persons who were in those rooms taking those bugs out and they would have been indicted."

He said that 333 FBI agents conducted more than 1,500 interviews and spent 14,000 man-hours on the inquiry. In addition, there were 33 days of testimony taken before the grand jury.

Responding further to a question suggesting that the government's investigation was insufficient, he said, "A criminal trial does not permit the scope necessary for a broad general inquiry into implications of the Watergate affair." He added that the U.S. Senate investigation was "a much more appropriate forum for that."

Kleindienst responded to criticism of Mr. Nixon's civil rights efforts by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The commission contended there is no over-all plan by the government for civil rights law enforcement and no effective co-ordination between federal agencies on civil rights matters. The attorney general said the commission had issued a "negative report."

He said it only looked at one side of the ledger and did not

discuss Mr. Nixon's successes such as desegregation of schools in the South.

Kleindienst, in his first Chicago visit since his appointment last year, was passing through the city after speaking before the Illinois Bar Assn. in Peoria and was on his way to another speaking stop in Cleveland before the American Bar Assn. He talked, answered questions and promoted programs of the Nixon administration for 40 minutes on a host of subjects, including organized crime and drugs, shield laws for newsmen and the congressional-presidential conflict on impounding of funds.

He said court-authorized electronic eavesdropping,

which has included about 670 taps over the last four years, has led to 2,500 indictments of crime-syndicate figures, including "what we consider to be about one-half the leadership of this type activity."

On drugs, while conceding

that the problem is far from beaten, he said, "This President is determined to do whatever is necessary, to use whatever techniques and resources are available, to resolve the alarming situation of drugs in this country."