

EA451WX (BJT)

CLARK WIRETAPS BJT 480

WASHINGTON, MARCH 12 (AP)-ATTY. GEN. RAMSEY CLARK SAID TODAY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS TIGHTENED UP ITS PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF WIRETAPS, REQUIRING HIS WRITTEN CONSENT IN EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE.

CLARK SAID HE BELIEVES WIRETAPPING IS JUSTIFIED IN ONLY ONE AREA-- "NATIONAL SECURITY WHERE THERE IS A DIRECT THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THIS NATION."

"IT IS MY JUDGMENT TODAY THAT THERE ARE 38 WIRETAPS," CLARK SAID, "THERE ARE NO ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCES OTHERWISE, AND THAT ALL OF THESE ARE IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY AREA."

HE SAID HE FEELS EAVESDROPPING OUTSIDE THIS AREA "IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH WHAT WE WANT FOR THIS COUNTRY."

CLARK WAS INTERVIEWED ON THE CBS RADIO-TELEVISION PROGRAM "FACE THE NATION."

CLARK TOOK OFFICE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL ONLY LAST WEEK, AFTER SERVING FIVE MONTHS AS ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL.

HE AVOIDED ANY ENTANGLEMENT IN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER FORMER ATTY. GEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY OR FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WIRETAPPING IN NON-SECURITY CASES DURING KENNEDY'S TERM AT THE HEAD OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACKNOWLEDGED IN COURT SEVERAL SUCH CASES.

"I AM NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF BLAMING ANYBODY," CLARK REMARKED. ASKED ABOUT ALLEGATIONS BY NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY JAMES GARRISON THAT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS THE RESULT OF A PLOT, CLARK SAID:

"UNTIL THERE IS EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, I WILL STAND WITH THE WARREN COMMISSION."

THAT COMMISSION, AFTER INVESTIGATION, HAD REPORTED THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD ALONE SHOT AND KILLED PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND THAT IT FOUND NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF A CONSPIRACY.

CLARK, ASKED ABOUT VARIOUS CONSPIRACY REPORTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC, SAID "THERE HAVE BEEN STUDIES OF THESE MATTERS. WE HAVE NOTHING THAT INDICATES ANY EVIDENCE OF A CONSPIRACY, AND WE STAND ON THAT ON THE BASIS OF OUR INVESTIGATION."

ASKED HIS FEELINGS ABOUT GARRISON'S CONTINUED INVESTIGATION AND REFUSAL TO REVEAL HIS SUPPOSEDLY NEW EVIDENCE TO THE GOVERNMENT, CLARK SAID, "I FIND IT CURIOUS AND I FIND IT DISTURBING AND I FIND IT SADDENING."

CLARK SAID "THERE WAS A COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION BY THE FBI INVOLVING THESE NEW ORLEANS ALLEGATIONS AND MUCH, IN FACT MOST, OF THOSE REPORTS HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND THEY SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FBI THAT OSWALD ACTED ALONE."

HE CONFIRMED THAT THE FBI INVESTIGATION WAS MADE FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION.

SOME OF THE FBI INFORMATION, HE SAID, HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED, UNDER THE PRINCIPLE THAT IT WAS IRRELEVANT TO THE WARREN COMMISSION INVESTIGATION, AND POSSIBLY DETRIMENTAL TO THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED.

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TURNING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ALLEGED MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE BY ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, CURRENTLY BARRED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TAKING A SEAT IN CONGRESS, CLARK SAID THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET MADE ANY FINAL DETERMINATION IN THE CASE.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT PREFERS TO WAIT, IF POSSIBLE, "FOR THE CONGRESS TO CONCLUDE ITS EFFORTS FIRST."

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