

MAR 25 1972

The Justice Dept. Denies

Life's Story SFChronicle

Washington

The Justice Department yesterday branded as false the charges by Life Magazine accusing the Nixon administration of seriously tampering with justice in San Diego.

"They are based on misinformation, innuendo, hearsay and a rehash of old rumors which were thoroughly investigated more than a year ago," said a two-sentence statement issued five days after the Life Magazine story was made public.

The statement was similar to the one issued Sunday night by the department's director of public information, John W. Hushen. It said that "there has been no White House influence or attempted influence, direct or indirect, in the department's investigations and prosecutions. The department has proceeded properly and vigorously without favoritism to anyone."

19 MAR 72

The Life article said the Nixon administration tampered with justice in San Diego to protect highly placed campaign contributors and friends of President Nixon from criminal prosecutions over the last two years.

Associated Press