

# U.S. Denial of Misdeeds in Weathermen Case Blasted

Detroit

A U.S. district judge ruled yesterday that the government's categorical denial of burglary, illegal wiretapping or other misconduct while investigating the Weathermen, issued two weeks ago, was inadequate.

The Weathermen are a

left-wing underground group.

Calling the denial a "perfunctory" response that "failed to go to the crux of the matter," Judge Damon J. Keith set a full hearing on the question for September 24 to determine whether any of the evidence against the Weathermen, now on trial in his court, is tainted by ille-

gal activity on the part of the government.

The judge ordered an interim disclosure by September 3 of any illegal activities that may have been conducted in the case by a wide range of government agencies and officials up to and including the White House.

Whether any federal officials will actually be subpoenaed to testify September 24 is uncertain. That will depend, defense attorneys said, on what is contained in the government affidavits that Keith ordered the government to file by September 3.

Keith's action was in response to a motion by attorneys for 15 alleged Weathermen charged with plotting a campaign of bombing and terrorism in December, 1969. Eleven of the defendants are still at large. Four are on trial.

As part of the basis for their motion, the defense attorneys cited reports, made in connection with the Watergate scandal, that the White House in 1970 approved an expanded "domestic intelligence" plan. The plan was said to involve burglary and the interception of mail, and to be aimed specifically at such groups as the Weathermen and the Black Panthers.

In this connection, the defense attorneys alleged that the national headquarters of Students for a Democratic Society, the parent group of the Weathermen, had been the subject of an illegal wiretap for eight months in 1970.

The attorneys also alleged that the offices of some of the Weathermen's lawyers had been burglarized and the home telephone of one lawyer tapped.

And in an affidavit filed with Judge Keith yesterday, they presented circumstantial evidence that a letter written by the parents of one of the defendants now at large, Mark Rudd, had been intercepted and opened by the government.

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