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U.S. Admits Wiretaps On Panther Chief Hilliard

The Federal Government admitted yesterday that it has wiretapped David Hilliard, chief of staff for the Black Panther party.

But the "overhearings" or "electronic surveillance" have no connection with the charge that Hilliard threatened the life of the President on Nov. 15, 1969 in a speech at Golden Gate Park, the Government said.

Hilliard is to go on trial May 3 here on that charge.

HEARINGS

In pre-trial hearings, the Government was ordered to turn over to Hilliard certain items "relative to this case," such as "secret recordings or transcripts."

An affidavit from Attorney General John N. Mitchell filed here yesterday said it was submitting the wiretap information to the court but it is only to be viewed by the court in private and not be revealed to Hilliard.

Mitchell said he would oppose disclosing to Hilliard the wiretap material "of information concerning telephonic overearings of his voice which occurred on numerous occasions during the course of national security surveillances of telephone installations."

MEMO

A separate memorandum from Brandon Alvey of the Department of Justice and

James L. Browning, the United States Attorney here, says Hilliard was not the object of the wiretaps, which occurred both before and after he was indicted.

Their memorandum says: "With reference to the inventory of secret recordings, a review of the records of the Department of Justice has established that the defendant Hilliard was never the subject of direct electronic surveillance.

"However the defendant did participate in numerous conversations that are unrelated to this case and which were overheard by the Federal Government during the course of electronic surveillances expressly authorized by the President, acting through the Attorney General . . ."

ARGUMENT

The memo held the listening was "deemed necessary either to protect against a clear and present danger to the security of the United States of America posed by organizations and individuals who seek to attack and subvert by violence and other unlawful means the existing structure of the Government . . . or to protect the Nation against or potential attack or any other hostile action of a foreign power."

Hilliard's attorney, Benjamin Dreyfus, said he will de-

mand the entire contents of all the "illegal wiretaps."

Dreyfus said he will ask for a hearing May 3 "to compel the Government to reveal to us the contents of all the conversations they said they overheard.

"The Attorney General said there were both pre- and post-indictment wiretaps, so it is all the more important that we know what they are.

"We intend to show the indictment and prosecution are tainted by illegal wiretapping," he said.