

Richard Kleindienst held a press conference today in San Francisco at the convention of the American Bar Association, not because he had anything to say, he told the press, but to give the press a chance to meet with him.

[Kleindienst refused to comment on Ramsey Clark, "deferring" to Secretary of State Rogers, but did make some comment about Jane Fonda.]

Mr. Kleindienst also had these comments about the Justice Department's response to the bugging -- the attempted bugging -- at the Democratic National Headquarters in Washington:

Kleindienst [voice]: "I'd like to describe for you the kind of action that -- if you'd been there in Washington you would have already seen -- and that's, No. 1, the most comprehensive, complete, thorough investigation by the FBI of any matter, I think, on a scale equal almost, I think, to the assassination of President Kennedy. And in addition to that, one of the most vigorous, cooperative efforts by the United States Attorney's office in Washington, D.C., and proceedings before a grand jury.

"Other than that, because it's a matter under investigation I -- as I do in all matters being investigated -- I do not care to make any comment. But I am satisfied that when the process has completed itself that this administration and the Department of Justice of this administration will not be answerable to the criticism that it either attempted to whitewash it, that it ignored it, and indeed I think there will be a deafening silence by some of our political opponents which will mean that in fact we did investigate and pursue this matter with complete, comprehensive thoroughness."

[End of item.]