

Sept 2/26/73  
**U.S. Accused  
 Of Wiretaps  
 On Newsmen**

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (AP)—The FBI, acting on White House orders, tapped the telephones three years ago of "six or seven reporters" suspected of receiving news leaks from administration aides, Time magazine said today.

The magazine did not identify the four government sources it said provided its information and did not name the reporters.

Former U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell and Attorney General Richard Kleindienst denied the report, Time said.

According to the magazine, the late J. Edgar Hoover, then FBI director, declined to arrange the wiretaps until Mitchell authorized him to do so on the grounds of domestic security, a reason that does not require a court order.

An undisclosed number of White House aides also had their telephones tapped, Time said.

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III continued the taps for 1½ months before the U.S. Supreme Court overruled Mitchell's wiretap policy last June, Time said.