

[Letter 3/1/73 Kleindienst to Kennedy]

Dear Senator: I have your letter of February 27, 1973, concerning the allegations in the March 5, 1973 issue of Time magazine, regarding electronic surveillance of newsmen and members of the White House staff.

I appreciate and share your concern regarding these very serious allegations.

As a consequence, I immediately investigated Time's allegations and personally contacted the Acting Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. Gray, and former Attorney General Mitchell. On February 26, 1973, the same day that Time magazine's story appeared, I issued a statement categorically denying the allegations in the Time magazine article. Apparently, my statement to the press was published after your letter to me. I am enclosing, for your information, a copy of my statement.

I would like to reiterate that Time's story has no basis in fact. During the period of the alleged wiretapping, a search of the Department's records reflects that neither my predecessor, Mr. Mitchell, nor I, authorized any electronic surveillance of newsmen, as reported by Time, nor of any members of the White House staff.