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More Wiretaps, Kleindienst Vows

Philadelphia

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Richard G. Kleindienst, confirmed Thursday as United States Attorney General after lengthy Senate hearings, said yesterday that wiretapping "is a legitimate, constitutional means to root out organized crime" and he vowed to keep using it.

"This will be done while this President (Richard Nixon) is President and while I am attorney general," Kleindienst told the Philadelphia chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

RULINGS

In recent decisions, federal judges have differed over the legality of electronic surveillance.

Last week U.S. District Judge Joseph S. Lord of Philadelphia said wiretapping used in a gambling case violated the constitutional protection against unreasonable search.

But this week a tap was upheld by a three-judge federal appeals court in St. Louis in affirming heroin possession convictions of four men.

"Wiretapping is necessary to fight crime," Kleindienst said. "It is the only way to get evidence to convict."

LAW

Kleindienst said that the wiretap law passed by Congress in 1968 wasn't used until Nixon took office.

"Since that time we have instituted 1600 court-supervised surveillances that have led to over 700 indictments, including over half of the leadership of the families of organized crime."

Kleindienst praised the Nixon administration and his predecessor, John Mitchell, for concentrating law enforcement in the areas of antitrust, civil rights, organized crime and drugs, and for fighting for penal reform.

He said the Justice Department "had stopped the senseless rush toward conglomerate acquisition" which was "against a competitive free society."

"If we hadn't fought it, 85 per cent of American production would be in the hands of about 100 companies," Kleindienst said.

RIGHTS

On civil rights he said the administration had "excelled" with "more than tripled compliance." He predicted that if Nixon's measures against the drug menace are continued, the problem will be just "an ordinary irritant" by 1976.

Kleindienst will be sworn in Monday in the White House four months after he was nominated by Mr. Nixon to head the Justice Department.

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