

Reporter Wiretaps 'Stolen From FBI'

NEW YORK — (AP) — Time magazine says it has learned that results of wiretaps allegedly ordered by President Nixon were stolen from the FBI after Director J. Edgar Hoover used them to "blackmail" the White House, which was pressuring for his removal.

The magazine reported that when W. Mark Felt, now the FBI's No. 2 man, asked Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian who had taken the wiretap documents, Mardian told him: "Ask the President. Or ask Mitchell."

Time said yesterday that Nixon had asked the FBI early in 1969 to tap the phones of two New York Times reporters and four White House aides in an effort to plug leaks involving

military policy discussions.

The scenario, according to the Time account, was as follows:

Hoover demanded and received written authorization from then Attorney General John N. Mitchell to make the wiretaps.

In 1971, the Administration decided to pressure the "irascible" Hoover out of his post. Angered, Hoover called Richard Kleindienst, then Mitchell's deputy, and threatened to reveal the "embarrassing taps."

No further move against Hoover was made, but, in the late spring of 1971, he discovered all his records of the wiretaps on reporters had disappeared.

The taps continued through much of 1970 and 1971 but produced little information.