

Time Says Nixon Sought Wiretaps

Washington

Time magazine has reported that President Nixon asked the FBI in 1969 to tap the telephones of two New York Times reporters and four White House aides in an effort to pluck leaks involving military policy discussions.

According to Time, then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover demanded and received written authorization from the attorney general, John Mitchell, to make the wiretaps.

In 1971, the magazine said, the administration decided to pressure Hoover out of his post of FBI director. At that time Hoover allegedly called Richard Kleindienst, then deputy attorney general, and threatened to reveal the 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 magazine reported.

Yesterday, Kleindienst denied that he had any knowledge of the wiretaps as reported by Time.

In a letter to Hedley Donovan, editor-in-chief of Time, Kleindienst said the weekly had written in its May 14 issue: "Angered, Hoover telephoned Kleindienst and threatened to reveal these embarrassing taps."

"Without qualifications of any kind," said Kleindienst, "I categorically state that no such telephone conversation took place between me and Mr. Hoover. I further categorically state that I have no personal knowledge about such taps."

Associated Press