

Nixon Erred On Tapes, Brennan Says

By Herbert H. Denton
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Labor Secretary Peter J. Brennan said yesterday that he believes President Nixon erred when he secretly taped telephone calls and all other conversations in his White House offices.

"I don't condone people taping conversations without the other person knowing about it," Brennan, former New York building trades union leader, said in a televised interview on the television program, "Issues and Answers" (ABC, WMAL-Channel 7.)

Brennan, the first member of Mr. Nixon's present Cabinet to publicly oppose the secret tapings, said he understood why AFL-CIO president George Meany was "up tight" about the recording of telephone calls and conversations with Mr. Nixon in the Oval Office. "I assumed everyone would feel that way," Brennan said.

"... Usually when I say something, I don't give a damn who hears it because I don't like talking to people about things that may be against someone else, or be wrong, and so therefore if you talk that way, you can't get up tight that you're recorded..."

But, he added, "If it's a question of this being done without the party on the other end knowing, I can see people getting up tight."

The automatic taping of President Nixon's White House conversations, which had been in effect since 1971, has been deactivated following disclosure last Monday of its existence, according to a White House source. The disclosure had come in testimony before the Senate select Watergate committee.

In a related matter, President Nixon worked over the weekend at Camp David on a response to the Senate Watergate committee's request that he provide it with tapes in which the President and White House aides discussed Watergate matters. White House aides previously have promised that the President's response will be delivered to committee members this morning.

The Senate Watergate hearings are to resume at 10 a.m. today with questioning of Gordon Strachan, once a top aide to former White House chief of staff H.R. (Bob) Haldeman.