

FBI Phone Taps On 'Chicago 7'

Chicago

A Justice Department attorney revealed yesterday that FBI agents tapped telephone conversations of two Chicago Seven defendants before and during their 1969-70 riot conspiracy trial.

George W. Calhoun told U.S. District Judge Edward T. Gignoux that the agents were ordered to surrender the "overhearings and to stop them immediately" when they were reported to the U.S. attorney general's office on Aug. 25, 1969, one month before the trial started.

Calhoun asserted that the conversations had no "value

or impact" on the trial and all further surveillance of the Chicago Seven was ordered halted.

But, he said, due to a lag in communications, another "overhearing" was made by FBI agents on October 4, 1969. This tap also was ordered to be surrendered to headquarters "and cut off."

Calhoun said the taps included two conversations of Rennie Davis and one of John Froines.

Davis, four other of the trial. Froines has been freed of contempt charges and all Chicago Seven defendants and two lawyers are being tried on contempt charges

stemming from the original the original defendants have been freed of conspiracy convictions by appellate courts.

Calhoun said the contents of the three tapped conversations were submitted to Gignoux in an affidavit last March and he asked that they remain secret.

Attorney Morton Stavis, defending the Chicago Seven against the contempt counts, said Calhoun's disclosures "opened a new dimension in the case" and asked Gignoux for an "evidentiary hearing" to question the FBI tappers.

Gignoux denied the motion for an evidentiary hearing.

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