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Kleindienst Talks of Crime Fight

Attorney General Richard Kleindienst, sidestepping questions about the Watergate bugging incident, declared yesterday that four more years under President Nixon will reduce crime in America "to just an irritant."

Addressing a luncheon meeting of the Marin county Bar Association, Kleindienst said vigorous use of legal electronic surveillances have been responsible for 1600 indictments of organized crime figures.

"Give us four more years and crime in this country will be back to where it should be," the attorney general pledged, "just an irritant in a free society."

Kleindienst told the audience of some 250 persons that vigorous enforcement of school desegregation laws under the Nixon Administration has brought about integration in Southern schools of 90 per cent of black children.

"Schools in the south are more integrated than they are in San Francisco," he said.

Kleindienst criticized former Attorney General Ramsey Clark for "not undertaking the basic objective of the United States government—to enforce all laws that Congress has enacted, not just the popular ones."

Clark "should have been a case worker for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare," Kleindienst said.

The attorney general refused, however, to discuss the Watergate case, contending that a motion now pending before a U.S. District Court in Washington precluded him from making any comments about the case.