

OCT 30 1972

Ehrlichman

Admits FBI

Election Aid

SF Examiner

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Nixon's top domestic adviser, John Ehrlichman, conceded today that a directive soliciting FBI information for political campaign purposes was sent out by a Justice Department subordinate, but Ehrlichman said he disapproved of it and later ordered it halted.

However, Ehrlichman said he approved of Justice Department involvement in politics and said it had to remain "responsive to the political system."

He was responding to questions about a report in Time Magazine that the FBI sent a teletype directive to 21 field offices in 14 states Sept. 8 asking for political information for Ehrlichman to be used in President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Ehrlichman said the request had been sent to the Justice Department and was similar to requests made to many departments of government to get background information for use by the President and his staff.

Ehrlichman said a subordinate of Deputy Attorney General Ralph E. Erickson, whom he did not identify, had forwarded the request to the FBI.

Ehrlichman said "it will not be done in the future."

SF Chronicle

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FBI Data

White House Tells 'Mistake'

Washington

President Nixon's chief domestic adviser, John D. Ehrlichman, acknowledged yesterday that the FBI had been asked to supply crime data for use in Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign.

But Ehrlichman denied a report by Time magazine that he himself had asked the FBI to provide the information.

He said a member of his staff had asked the Department of Justice to make crime information available for use in the campaign. He said that no one in the White House had intended that the request be passed along to the FBI, which is the investigative arm of the Department of Justice.

Ehrlichman did not say whether he had instructed one of his staff members to get the information.

MEMO

He said a memorandum had been sent to the FBI by a Justice Department official he declined to name.

"That subordinate made a mistake in submitting that request to the FBI," Ehrlichman commented. "That mistake will not be made again."

"It was never contemplated here that the FBI would be included in the process."

The FBI has always sought to maintain a non-partisan role in political campaigns.

Ehrlichman defended participation of the Justice Department in such data gathering activities.

COMMENT

"The Justice Department has to be involved in politics as distinct from the FBI," the White House official commented. "The Justice Department has to be responsive to the political system. The Attorney General should be a political appointee. He should be responsible to the political will of the people."

According to Time, a message signed by acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray was sent over the agency's teletype to 21 field offices with this introduction: "In order for John Ehrlichman to give the President maximum support on campaign trips during the next several weeks, the following information is required."

Gray, on an inspection trip to Richmond, Va., declined to comment on the magazine's claim.

United Press