

(Fuller account filed Watergate)

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White House Denial on Phone Taps

Washington

The White House, responding to a published report, denied yesterday that any member of President Nixon's staff requested or knew about any taps on newsmen's telephones.

Such activity "would be counter to our philosophy, of course," said Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler.

Ziegler's disclaimer followed a report in the current issue of Time magazine that the administration ordered the FBI to tap the telephones of both reporters and White House aides in an attempt to track down possible news leaks.

Ziegler said that no one on the President's staff "ever requested or was aware of taps on reporters' phones."

He also said the White House no longer has staff members assigned to tracing news leaks, as was the case after publication of the Pentagon Papers.

United Press