

Muskie Declares Mitchell Distorted Wiretap Remarks

OHAHA, April 24 (UPI) — Senator Edmund S. Muskie criticized Attorney General John N. Mitchell Saturday for “distorting” remarks the Senator made in the controversy over alleged wiretapping by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Maine Democrat, in Nebraska for a Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner at Lincoln, told reporters at an airport news conference: “I read in the paper this morning Mitchell said I deliberately distorted the facts.

“He has deliberately distorted my statement,” the Senator said. “I don’t even know if he has read it.”

In a speech Friday night in Cincinnati, Mr. Mitchell referred to Mr. Muskie’s charges that last year’s Earth Day rally in Washington was under surveillance by the F.B.I. Mr. Mitchell said that Mr. Muskie had twisted facts for political advantage.

Mr. Muskie told Indiana Democrats Friday night at another Jefferson-Jackson Day event: “I don’t use my phone as freely as I once did in Washington” because of the evidence of “excessive zeal” in surveillance by the F.B.I.

“If I saw more of a display of concern on the part of the Attorney General to protect citizens, I’d be less concerned,” he said today.

“He discloses in every reaction he takes his inconsideracy to the privacy of American citizens,” Mr. Muskie said.

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