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WIRETAP HEARING SET HERE TODAY

**U.S. Says National Security
Is Involved in J.D.L. Case**

By ELEANOR BLAU

A hearing on the legality of a Justice Department wiretap on the Jewish Defense League will be held in Federal District Court in Brooklyn this morning.

The surveillance, which was not court authorized, was disclosed last Friday by the Government before a pretrial

hearing on conspiracy charges against Rabbi Meir Kahane, the league's head, and other members of the organization, involving the transportation of firearms and possession of explosives.

In a statement accompanying a sealed transcript of overheard telephone conversations, Attorney General John N. Mitchell said that the surveillance had been authorized by President Nixon on the ground that national security was involved, that and the disclosure of the transcript would prejudice the national interest.

But Judge Jack B. Weinstein ruled that there was "substantial probability" that the transcript would "show illegality," and he ordered the Govern-

ment to allow defense lawyers to inspect it.

However, he gave Government lawyers until today to consult with the White House on the matter.

The Government position that it may engage in electronic surveillance of people without court approval, in national security cases is scheduled to be heard by the Supreme Court next fall.

The High Court agreed last Monday to hear a case involving the wiretapping of a member of the White Panther party who has been accused of conspiracy in the bombing of a Central Intelligence Agency office in Ann Arbor, Mich.

In a news conference last April, President Nixon branded

as "pure nonsense" charges that surveillance techniques used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation had turned the nation into a "police state."

He said that in his two years in office the number of wiretaps for national security purposes had been reduced from an annual level of 90 to 100 in the early nineteen-sixties to about 50.

'Protect This Nation'

In his statement, Mr. Mitchell said the surveillance of the J.D.L. "was deemed essential to protect this nation and its citizens against hostile acts of a foreign power and to obtain foreign intelligence information deemed essential to the security of the United States."