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AP - Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., one of the few senators who could conduct a congressional probe of the Watergate affair, said Saturday he plans no hearings at this time.

"The administrative practices subcommittee would be interested in seeing if any bugging law would have been violated," Kennedy told a news conference at a Democratic fund-raising dinner here.

"We are reviewing the material that has been collected primarily in the media and if we thought we could turn up new material, we would conduct our own probe," he said.

But the senator stressed there are no plans at present to hold open hearings because of the criminal prosecution pending in the case.

A congressional investigation is not carried out just for political purposes, he said.

"Legislative intent is generally and primarily the reason such investigations are conducted," Kennedy said.

"This is a criminal indictment, and we must be sensitive to the fact that any adverse publicity might impinge on a fair trial," he said.

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