

Election Advice**FBI Aide Called Key in Inquiry****Washington**

An investigation of how a controversial White House request for election-year political advice was circulated to FBI offices has placed key responsibility for its transmission with a top assistant to acting director Patrick Gray, a reliable source said yesterday.

The request, from the office of John D. Ehrlichman, the chief domestic adviser to President Nixon, was initialed by David Kinley, the chief assistant to Gray and routinely forwarded to FBI field offices, an internal FBI report is said to have shown.

Controversy has focused on the request since Time magazine reported about a week ago that Ehrlichman's

office had asked for advice on "substantive issues in the criminal justice field," saying that the information was needed to give the President maximum support during campaign trips over the next several weeks."

Criticism centered on what was considered to be a violation of the FBI's nonpolitical tradition. Ehrlichman was quoted as saying that the request was not intended for handling by the bureau and criticizing the Justice Department for forwarding it to the field offices.

According to the source, this is the way the request for advice was channeled through offices here and finally reached the FBI field offices in the 14 states:

The request, which origi-

nated in Ehrlichman's office, was forwarded to the office of Deputy Attorney General Ralph E. Erickson, where it was handled by associate attorney general Donald E. Santarelli.

From Santarelli it went to Gray's office at a time when the acting bureau director was absent. With Gray away, and apparently responding to a plea of urgency in the request, Kinley initialed it and forwarded it to the office of Thomas E. Bishop, said to be Gray's right-hand man. *United Press*

"[According to] a report in Time Magazine ... 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." SFE Examiner 30 Oct 72, this file.