

KLEINDIENST VOWS AID ON WATERGATE

Promises Cooperation With
Senate Investigation

By WARREN WEAVER Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst promised today that the Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation would cooperate with the Senate investigation of political eavesdropping at the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters.

Mr. Kleindienst said the "only reason" for holding back any records of the Government's Watergate inquiry would be the possibility of prejudicing a pending court case or the fact that the material was unreliable and possibly damaging to innocent persons.

The Attorney General told reporters at a breakfast meeting that the investigation to be headed by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, was "probably a good thing."

"The judicial system is not the best place to explore all the ramifications" of political espionage and the participants who did not necessarily violate any Federal law, Mr. Kleindienst said.

The Nixon Cabinet officer

acknowledged freely that he exchanged information and comments about the Watergate case regularly with the White House, but he denied that the President or any of Mr. Nixon's aides had attempted to interfere with the Justice Department investigation.

'A Little Bit of Concern'

"We don't live in little prophylactic sacks," he said. "I talk to the people in the White House, and they talk to me. On a matter like this, there was a little bit of concern . . . a certain apprehension legitimately surfaced."

During a broad-ranging discussion, Mr. Kleindienst also did the following:

¶Reported he had recommended that L. Patrick Gray 3d, acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, be given a permanent appointment and that he did not know why the President had been delaying action on filling the post for more than two months since the election.

¶Conceded he had opposed some of the recent changes in second-echelon Justice Department staff, including the replacement of Solicitor General Erwin N. Griswold, made at the "suggestion" of the White House, but that he now supported all the new men and women.

¶Said he intended to remain as Attorney General until "the President calls me up and says: 'Cleandish, you can serve your country better in Winslow, Ariz.'" There have been persistent rumors that he would

leave office this spring or summer.

¶Attributed most efforts at political espionage, which he denounced, to amateurs who regard campaigns for any party or candidate as "kind of a joy-pop." He volunteered that the national young Republican organization had often engaged in "a lot of truck stuff" of that kind within its own ranks.

Mr. Kleindienst insisted there had been no necessity to name a special prosecutor or a Federal commission to look into the Watergate case and inter-party spying. The best commission, he insisted, was the press, which needed only to avoid being "oversensitive" to occasional criticism by its favorite targets.