

On Nixon's Brother

The White House is citing national security as the basis for its refusal to allow two former presidential aides to testify about the electronic surveillance of F. Donald Nixon, the President's brother, a Senate Watergate committee spokesman said yesterday.

Terry F. Lenzner, assistant chief counsel for the committee, said attorneys for former presidential aides H.R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman said the White House had directed them not to answer questions about the surveillance because of national security.

President Nixon acknowledged last month that the Secret Service had wiretapped his brother's telephone, but he cited "security reasons," and not national security, as the reason for the bugging.

In court papers filed yesterday, Lenzner said that the White House's "particular concern" was with a trip Donald Nixon made to the Dominican Republic in 1969 with John H. Meier, a former employee of billionaire Howard Hughes. At the time, Meier was negotiating for mining rights in the Caribbean nation.

Lenzner's statement came in court papers filed in connection with a suit by employees of Hughes who are seeking to block the committee from questioning them in private.