Wiretaps Alleged by Institute

The Institute for Policy Studies and three of its officers have filed suit in federal court here against several former top government officials, claiming its telephones were illegally tapped.

The IPS, a public affairs "think tank," said it was acting "on information and belief" that its phones were tapped prior to Aug. 11, 1971, in connection with a White House plumbers investigaiton into news leaks in connection with the Pentagon Papers.

Among the defendants named were former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, former White House aides John D. Ehrlichman, David R. Young Jr., E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy, several FBI officials, and the C&P Telephone Co.

Attorney Mitchell Rogovin, who is representing IPS, did not file any papers to support his claim that the institute had been illegally wiretapped.

He said he relied instead upon a memorandum from Young to Ehrlichman on Aug. 11, 1971, in which Young was discussing possible grand jury witnesses in connection with the Pentagon Papers probe. In that memo, which surfaced during Senate Watergate committee hearings, Young mentioned IPS leaders Marcus Raskin and Richard Barnet, but said it seemed unlikely they would be called "because they have been overheard."

Also named in Young's memorandum as a possible grand jury witness was IPS officer Ralph Stavins, the third individual plaintiff in the suit filed yesterday.

Rogovin has previously said in an affidavit filed in another suit in federal court here that he has further evidence that federal and local agents illegally infiltrated, wiretapped and burglarized the institute's offices.

The suit asks that all persons whose voices were overheard on alleged illegal wiretap be paid a minimum of $100 a day for the duration of the tap, a penalty listed under wiretap provisions of the Omnibus Crime Act of 1970.