

Goldwater Sees 'Treason' In Post Use of FBI Data

Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) charged yesterday that The Washington Post had committed an "act of treason" by printing secret FBI documents that contradict Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's denials that he initiated wiretaps on government officials and newsmen.

"... It's very obvious to me that any information that the government has can be obtained by The Washington Post or any other newspaper that wants to pay the price," Goldwater told reporters after delivering a Senate speech in defense of Kissinger.

"This is plain, outright treason, and I won't stand for it," he added.

Benjamin C. Bradlee, executive editor of The Washington Post, replied in a statement, "That's really an outrageous charge. We neither stole the documents nor bought them."

Bradlee added, "We have a right to look at any information given to us by responsible government officials, whether it's a senator or a President or a bureaucrat. And we have a responsibility to print all information that is relevant and newsworthy."

Reports published in The

Washington Post, The New York Times and The Boston Globe yesterday sharply contradicted Kissinger's sworn testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he did not order wiretaps placed on the telephones of his aides in an attempt to stem four major news leaks in 1969.

The FBI documents quoted indicated that some of the wiretaps were requested by Kissinger and his chief assistant at the time, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr.

In his Senate speech, Goldwater urged Kissinger to "lay the case out in a plain and simple fashion so that any newsman will be able to understand it... What I mean is that it is time we decide once and for all whether it is more important to protect secret information relative to our government, or more important to provide more circulation for newspapers, more viewers and listeners to the electronic media, and more money and adulation for people willing to turn against their government."

To reporters, Goldwater said: "I'm worried about the fact that The Washington Post can print a facsimile of a top-secret paper stolen from the FBI and nobody does anything about it. I think the Attorney General should haul The Washington Post in and demand an explanation of how they got it, what they paid for it, who gave it or sold it to them, and go through the FBI and find the same thing."

"This is really serious. What Dr. Kissinger did is nothing compared to the dangers involved in the constant leaking of top secret information here in the city of Washington," he added.

After making his charge about treason, Goldwater told a reporter: "I'm not blaming anybody, because if a guy like (Daniel) Ellsberg can get away with it, if I were a newsman with it, if I were a newsman I'd feel I could print anything I could lay my hands on, but as a senator... I'm going to raise all the noise I can."