

N.Y. Times Reporter Sues Nixon Over Phone Taps

Washington

A New York Times newsman filed suit yesterday against former President Richard Nixon, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and others, accusing them of tapping his telephone in 1969 to learn sources of news stories embarrassing to them.

Hedrick Smith, a Pulitzer-Prize winner, asked for damages "in a sum deemed just by the court" in the suit filed in U.S. District Court.

The suit was the fifth to be filed against Mr. Nixon and officials of his administration as an outgrowth of 17 "national security" wiretaps instituted in 1969. It is the

second suit failed by a newsman.

Smith was diplomatic correspondent for the Times at the time the taps were placed. His complaint says the electronic surveillance was in place for 89 days and "discontinued only because plaintiff left the Washington, D.C., area."

Smith's wife and three children also were listed as plaintiffs.

James C. Goodale, executive vice president and counsel of the New York Times, said the newspaper supports Smith's legal action, "and we will use every resource in the law to assist him."

Associated Press