

Carter Says Nixon Wrong On Illegality

Washington

President Carter let it be known yesterday that he disagrees with predecessor Richard M. Nixon's view that a President has an inherent power to order illegal conduct.

Carter's spokesman, Rex Granum, said the President feels "very strongly" that such a philosophy is a "tragic mistake . . . as past events have shown so dramatically."

Granum responded to questions at a White House news briefing concerning Carter's reaction to Nixon's statements to interviewer David Frost about breaking the law.

The former President told Frost, according to transcripts of the interview, that he had inherent power when he was in the White House to order burglaries, eavesdropping or other illegal conduct against dissidents.

"When the President does it, that means that it is not illegal," the transcript showed Nixon told Frost.

"President Carter does not feel that any president has the right to break the law," Granum said. "He feels very strongly that it is a tragic mistake to follow that philosophy, as past events have shown so dramatically.

"He does feel there are adequate judicial means to prevent danger to the country."

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