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FBI Budget Hearing

Hoover Tells of Wiretaps

Washington

J. Edgar Hoover, in testimony released yesterday, said the FBI is using 47 telephone wiretaps and six hidden microphones in security or organized crime cases but that none is—or ever has been—used against a member of Congress.

Hoover disclosed the extent of his agency's electronic surveillance "to put the record straight" at a closed March 17 hearing of a house appropriations subcommittee considering his budget request for \$318.6 million for

1971-72.

He declared that "the most serious threat to the security of our country is Soviet Russia and its satellites" and attributed "an unprecedented number of disturbances and incidents of student-connected violence" last year to agitation by the pro-Soviet Students for a Democratic Society and the Peking-Oriented Progressive Labor Party.

Hoover also defended use of four armored cars — two in Washington and one each in New York City and Los Angeles — as a precaution

against repeated threats against his life.

Associate FBI Director Clyde Tolson told the subcommittee the agency had received 26 threats on Hoover's life last year and 16 to far this year.

In supporting the request for \$44.2 million budget increase next year, partly to hire an additional 1036 FBI agents, Hoover said 1970 had seen a growth in terrorist tactics by "new left and black extremists," a revival of domestic activity by "old-line communists" and intensified communist operations directed from abroad. *United Press*