

(Fuller account filed Nix Ad.)

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Time Says FBI Bugged Reporters

New York

The White House ordered the FBI to tap telephones of various Nixon administration officials and reporters, according to government sources quoted in Time magazine yesterday.

The wiretapping began three years ago when J. Edgar Hoover was director and was continued by L. Patrick Gray. It ended only after the Supreme Court overruled the bugging policy last June, Time said.

Hoover had balked at the White House orders and demanded authorization from

former Attorney General John Mitchell, who supplied it, Time added.

FORCE

Richard Kleindienst, then deputy attorney general, tried to force Hoover to resign and in 1971 supported a proposed congressional investigation into the agency, the sources said.

"Enraged, Hoover indicated to Kleindienst that if he was called to testify on Capitol Hill, he might disclose the wiretaps," the sources said in the article.

"The operation started with only one tap but soon expanded to include surveill-

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ance of six or seven reporters plus an undisclosed number of White House aides," the article said.

SANCTION

"Mitchell sanctioned the surveillance, according to the sources, on the ground of domestic security, which sidestepped the necessity of getting a court order for each tap," the magazine said.

However, the Supreme Court ruled that even in domestic security cases, a court order was necessary for wiretapping.

Mitchell, Attorney General Kleindienst and the White House deny the article, Time added.

Reuters