

HOO

14 DEC 1966

EA156!WX

EWX LOCALS OUT E(280)

KENNEDY-HOOVER

WASHINGTON, DEC. 14 (AP)-AS ATTORNEY GENERAL IN 1962, ROBERT F. KENNEDY ISSUED A PRIVATE DIRECTIVE TO FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER AND OTHER JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THAT CERTAIN INVESTIGATIVE MEANS WERE NOT TO BE USED, THE DEPARTMENT SAID TONIGHT.

THE DEPARTMENT, IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES, DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC CONTENTS OF THE DIRECTIVE EXCEPT TO SAY THAT IT WAS WRITTEN IN VERY BROAD TERMS.

KENNEDY, NOW A DEMOCRATIC SENATOR FROM NEW YORK, HAS EXCHANGED STATEMENTS WITH HOOVER IN A DISPUTE OVER WHETHER KENNEDY HAD AUTHORIZED HOOVER TO EXPAND THE USE OF ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING DEVICES.

KENNEDY SAID HE DIDN'T AUTHORIZE USE OF "BUGGING" AND DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS BEING DONE. HOOVER SAID KENNEDY NOT ONLY KNEW ABOUT SUCH PRACTICES BUT HAD INDICATED INTEREST IN GETTING BETTER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT TO DO THE JOB.

RECENT DECISIONS BY THE U.S. SUPREME COURT HAVE PLACED IN JEOPARDY MANY FEDERAL CONVICTIONS BASED ON EAVESDROPPING AND WIRETAPPING.

THE WASHINGTON POST SAID KENNEDY'S 1962 DIRECTIVE PROHIBITED "IMPROPER, ILLEGAL AND UNETHICAL" INVESTIGATIVE PRACTICES.

THE POST, WHICH CITED NO SOURCE FOR ITS INFORMATION, SAID THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THE PROHIBITION WAS TO BE THAT WIRETAPPING COULD BE USED IN CASES INVOLVING NATIONAL SECURITY--AS HAD BEEN ALLOWED BY PREVIOUS ATTORNEY GENERALS.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SAID IT HAD GIVEN OUT NO SPECIFICS ON THE CONTENTS OF THE DIRECTIVE.

NEITHER KENNEDY NOR THE FBI WOULD COMMENT ON THE MATTER BEYOND THEIR EARLIER STATEMENTS.

A LETTER HOOVER SENT TO REP. H. R. GROSS, R-IOWA, AND WHICH WAS RELEASED LAST SATURDAY, TOUCHED OFF THE DISPUTE.

WE1151PES