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## Bobby Reply On King 'Wiretap'

### Washington

The charge that Robert F. Kennedy, when Attorney General, ordered the FBI to place a wiretap on the telephone of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was answered yesterday by a Kennedy campaign official.

In Portland, Ore., Pierre Salinger, a press spokesman for Kennedy, said:

"Senator Kennedy never authorized any eavesdropping (surveillance by hidden microphones) while Attorney General. He did authorize wiretaps in cases involving national security and on written request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Asked specifically whether Kennedy had authorized a wiretap of the late Dr. King on July 16, 1963, as charged by columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, Salinger replied:

"Senator Kennedy has not in the past and will not now discuss individual cases."

The Salinger statement was interpreted by reporters in Oregon to mean that Kennedy did authorize a King wiretap, based on the "National Security" exception.

*New York Times*