

J. Edgar Hoover, the late director of the FBI, was afraid of being fired and therefore kept boxes of records of wiretaps of doubtful legality ordered by then Attorney General John Mitchell "to keep Mitchell and the others in line."

Authority for this glimpse into the backstage life of high government circles came last week from former No. 3 man in the FBI, William Sullivan. (Hoover fired Sullivan in a difference over policy October 6, 1971, and Sullivan had become director of the Justice Department's office of national narcotics intelligence.)

Sullivan told the Los Angeles Times that

Memories Of Hoover



HOOVER

Hoover was "not of sound mind" before his death in May, 1972, and

he warned top Justice Department officials Hoover "might use the (wiretap) records in some manner" against Mitchell and even President Nixon.

Said Sullivan, he would get something on a Senator he'd send one of the errand boys up and advise the Senator that 'we're in the course of an investigation and we by chance happened to come up with this data on your daughter. But we want you to know this — we realize you'd want to know it. But don't have any concern, no one will ever learn about it.' From that time on the Senator's right in his pocket."