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Honorable Joseph W. Martin, Jr.,  
Speaker of the  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Speaker:

There is transmitted herewith a draft of a proposed bill  
"To amend section 605 of the Communications Act of 1934 in order  
to increase the security of the United States, and for other  
purposes."

The purpose of the proposed bill is to authorize certain  
governmental agencies to receive and use for intelligence purposes  
the contents of any wire or radio communication if such receipt  
and utilization is in the interests of national security. It  
is contemplated that the rules and regulations governing this  
activity will be promulgated by the interested agencies, subject  
to approval by the President.

The necessity for such legislation stems from the require-  
ment that the federal government process all sources of intelligence  
in order that the national security may be maintained in a field  
wherein present law operates to protect the secrecy of communica-  
tions which possibly contain matter detrimental to the safety of  
the nation. Regulated access to the source material of intelligence  
is a fundamental requirement for the successful operation of  
government agencies concerned with security matters. The necessity  
for such legislation is emphasized in the recommendation contained  
on page 253 of the final report of the Joint Committee on the  
"Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack" (Senate Document 244)  
which recommendation states:

"That effective steps be taken to insure that  
statutory or other restrictions do not operate to  
the benefit of an enemy or other forces inimical  
to the Nation's Security and to the handicap of  
our own intelligence agencies. With this in mind,  
the Congress should give serious study to, among  
other things, the Communications Act of 1934; to

Lt. Cdr. E. D. Carville,  
Ext. 2532,  
Office of Legislative Counsel.

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suspension in proper instances of the statute of limitations during war (it was impossible during the war to prosecute violations relating to 'Magic' without giving the secret to the enemy); to legislation designed to prevent unauthorized sketching, photographing, and mapping of military and naval reservations in peace time; and to legislation fully protecting the security of classified matter."

The Navy Department considers this matter one of importance and, with approval of the War Department, recommends enactment of the proposed legislation.