

Washington Daily News, 29 Sep 64

Senator Is Hot Under the Collar About Lapel Microphones

A Long Look Will Be Taken at U.

By MARSHALL McNEIL
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

Does the U. S. Tariff Commission use two-way mirrors to snoop?

Has the Indian Claims Commission bought lapel, tieclasp or wristwatch microphones to gather undercover information?

A Senate Judiciary Sub-committee wants answers to these questions.

104 QUESTIONS

It has sent 104 questions, under 22 separate headings, to 34 Federal departments and agencies to follow up its preliminary investigation, which, it says, "has been quietly under way for several months."

Said Sen. Edward Long (D., Mo.), sub-committee chairman: "It is high time that the Congress knows how much and

what kind of snooping is done by our non-security agencies.

"We know that the agencies purchase much fancy electronic gear. We want to take a long hard look at what it is being used for. Our right of privacy, as Americans, must be zealously guarded."

And so he has fired these questions, among others, at Government bureaus:

- How many listening-in circuits and-or telephone transmitter cutoff buttons (devices to permit a third person to monitor telephone conversations without being heard on the line) were installed on telephones of your agency in the Washington area as of June 30, 1964?

- Has your agency, or anyone on its behalf, ever surreptitious-

ly tapped or monitored a telephone?

- Has your agency purchased a miniature (under five pounds weight) tape or wire recorders which can be concealed in a desk drawer, in a brief case or on the person?

- Has your agency purchased any lapel, tieclasp, pen, wristwatch, calendar, telephone, picture frame, parabolic, machine gun or other similar microphones?

- Have your agency personnel or other security people working with or for the agency, discovered any telephone taps or other surveillance devices generally known as bugs?

- Has your agency purchased any closed-circuit TV equip-

ment, infrared photographic equipment, one-way glass, or two-way mirrors?

- Does your agency have an internal security force which consists of persons assigned to check on the loyalty and security of employes, agents and contractees of the agency?

- Does your agency hire private concerns to do any of its security or surveillance work?

- Does your agency either permit or prohibit the checking of the contents of desks of employes?

NOT FBI OR CIA

The questionnaires did not go to the Defense or State Departments, or to the FBI or the

S. Snooping

CIA, but they did go to these agencies, among others:

Atomic Energy Commission, Civil Aeronautics Board, Civil Rights Commission, Agriculture, Commerce, Health, Education and Welfare, Interior, Labor, Treasury and Post Office Departments, Home Loan Bank Board, General Account-

ing Office, Inter-state Commerce Commission, Maritime Commission, Aeronautics and Space Administration, Labor Relations Board, Securities and Exchange Commission, Small Business Administration, TVA, Civil Service Commission and the Veterans Administration.

'Snooping' Charge Under Study

Associated Press

A Senate subcommittee is checking into reports of snooping by Government agencies, through use of monitored telephone conversations, concealed microphones, two-way mirrors and other devices.

Sen. Edward V. Long, (D-Mo.), making public a comprehensive questionnaire sent to Federal agencies, said yesterday that a preliminary investigation has been quiet-

ly underway for several months.

"The further we dig, the more disturbing information we uncover," said Long, who is chairman of the Judiciary Committee's administrative practice and procedure subcommittee.

The questionnaire on "Invasions of Privacy" calls for detailed information about the monitoring and tapping of telephone calls, the use of miniature recording devices

and special observation equipment, the placement of mail covers and the checking of the contents of employees' desks.

Zaumeyer Elected

William J. Zaumeyer, a plant pathologist for the Agriculture Department, has been elected president of the American Phytopathological Society. He lives at 3804 Thornapple st., Chevy Chase.