

MONTGOMERY (Ala.)

ADVERTISER

Approved For Release 2000/08/03 : CIA-RDP75-0000

Circ.: m. 61,937

S. 78,423

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

## CPYRGHT Government By Bug

THE case of Baron I. Shacklette, the This-Bug-For-Hire man who was caught eavesdropping on Goldfine, is the more sordid because of his background.

Shacklette, 48, graduated from Harvard Law School in 1937. He has been an investigator since 1939, serving as an assistant chief investigator for the War Food Administration, then in Army Counter Intelligence, later as head of the investigative branch of the General Services Administration and the War Assets Administration.

With all this investigative experience, Shacklette was qualified as a freelance gumshoe for anybody with a case and his price. He is, unfortunately, only one of an army of former FBI, CIA and Army Intelligence agents and other investigators who have left the government service for more lucrative practice on their own.

Armed with their electronic eavesdropping and wiretapping equipment, their flatfoot talents and their acquaintance with the right people, they enjoy a thriving practice in a city where almost everyone wants to find out something about someone.

It's important for congressional committees to have competent staff members, including investigators. But this does not excuse the shameless use of cloak & dagger techniques by alumni of the government's most expert investigative agencies to eavesdrop on, and even steal documents from, private individuals.

Perhaps Shacklette's bungling performance will serve to discredit the practice which has been going on for many years. If not, the bug may become a more important symbol of government in Washington than the speaker's gavel.

STATINTL