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THE RIGHTS OF PRIVACY AS A
CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. I commend him for directing the attention of the Senate so eloquently and forcefully, as he always does, to what I think many of us consider to be the very extremely serious and far-reaching problem of the right of privacy.

I most heartily praise the Senator for the splendid speech he is making.

I am glad the distinguished Senator from Missouri [Mr. Long] has held the hearings. If the Senator from Oregon is going to mention this later, I shall not anticipate him, but I join in commending the distinguished Senator from Missouri for the splendid job he has done as chairman of the committee.

This is not in any sense criticism, but I was a little puzzled and disturbed in reading, I think over a year ago, a release from the Long committee—I do not know whether it was from the chairman, the Senator from Missouri, or not—in which it was indicated that although questionnaires and queries had been directed to many agencies, departments, and bureaus of the Government, no such questionnaires or queries had been directed at least at that time to what I believe was referred to as the security community, consisting of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the FBI at least in the Department of Justice, and the CIA.

Some years ago, I served on the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary, during the well-known Otepka case investigations. As I recall, representatives of the Department of Defense and the Department of Justice appeared before us in executive session. To be sure, it was in executive session, but later, by vote of the committee, the evidence was revealed to the public, with one or two small exceptions in which internal security seemed to be involved.

If we are to face up to this matter of bugging and wiretapping, this matter of invasions of the right of privacy, and face up to it in man fashion, it seems to me—even though it might be wise to have certain proceedings in executive session—that no department in this Government and no agency in this Government and no individual in this Government should be exempted. I do not say this in criticism of the committee of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. Long], but simply to suggest that this facet of the problem warrants very careful consideration.