

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

McKeithen Bug Plotter Identity Still Mystery

By HOKE MAY

Who wanted to bug the governor?

State officials say they really don't know. But a report in 1965 prompted Gov. John J. McKeithen's security officer to install \$500 worth of antibugging equipment in the executive offices at Baton Rouge.

The specialized electronics gear was obtained from a firm headed by a fugitive witness from Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination plot investigation.

THAT IS what put reporters on the story of electronic eavesdropping in the councils of state.

Today, Col. Thomas D. Burbank, superintendent of state police and director of public safety, told the States-Item:

"It's not a common thing, but it's not uncommon, either."

He said the 1965 tip that someone would attempt to wire McKeithen's office for sound "came from a reliable source"

So reliable, in fact, that the

governor's security chief, Col. Aubrey Young, installed a noise-making machine to jam possible transmissions as well as other debugging equipment.

"We weren't told the purpose behind the bugging attempt," Col. Burbank explained. "The governor's office is important. There are a lot of people who might want to listen in."

"In fact," the police official added, "it's happened in a couple of other administrations. They wanted to bug Mr. Earl and some others."

"MR. EARL" was the late Gov. Earl K. Long.

Burbank, who has been with the state police for 28 years, said the science of electronic snooping is becoming a No. 1 subject in the curriculum of security work.

"We can pretty much control the static stuff where you have a transmitter which needs a source of electricity," he said.

Physical searches and detection devices which pick up noise feedbacks from concealed transmitters are employed to ferret out hidden microphones.

"Where you run into the biggest trouble," the superintendent said, "is from people who walk in with small wire recorders strapped to them."

THAT WAS the reason for the noisemaking jammer set up in McKeithen's office shortly after the 1965 fiscal session of the Legislature.

It creates a high cycle of sound. When the tape is played back, whatever has been recorded is jammed by an ear-splitting whine.

The counterespionage boxes have been removed from McKeithen's offices and are stored at State Police Headquarters.

"You can't tell when we may have to use them again," Burbank said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1
STATES-ITEM
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 4-7-67

Edition: RED FLASH

Author:

Editor:

Title: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F.
KENNEDY; DALLAS, TEX.

Character: 11-22-63

or AFO

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

Being Investigated