

WIRE TAPPING FROM WASHINGTON
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Bobby Kennedy's Halo Fades in Wire Tapping, Book Hisses

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20—At the moment the hottest thing in the Democratic party is Sen. Robert F. Kennedy of New York, the brother of the slain President, but his halo is tipping.

Disclosures of the hand he played in wire tapping and the exposure of his snobbery may send his popularity plunging far below that of President Johnson and leave him low man on the 1968 political totem pole.

Bobby came off second best in a "bugging" row with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hoover declared it was "absolutely inconceivable" that Bobby, his former boss as attorney general under President Kennedy, would deny knowledge of "bugging" in criminal cases.

Hoover produced memos from Kennedy's chief witness, Courtney A. Evans, a former assistant FBI director, who was promoted by Bobby to a post in the justice department. These disclosed that Bobby had approved "microphone surveillance." The FBI has a file bulging with Kennedy approvals of wire taps which could be disclosed one a day, for months.

Establishes Special Wire Tap Group

NOT ONLY DID KENNEDY approve FBI wire taps, he approved "bugging" by the treasury department on Feb. 16, 1961. Furthermore, he set up a special wire tap group under his own command. This group consisted of three men. One was given a job in the justice department, a second was placed on the White House payroll, and a third on the payroll of the immigration and naturalization service.

If Bobby tapped the wires of James Hoffa, teamster boss, whom he made his No. 1 target, these men would know it. It would be interesting to hear what they might say if they were summoned before a grand jury and asked to testify under oath.

Some friends of Hoffa have offered a reward of \$100,000 to anyone producing evidence of wire tapping in connection with Hoffa's trial in Nashville. William Leeb, president and publisher of the Manchester [N. H.] Union Leader, has offered another \$100,000.

The sum is a tempting one, but whether any of the principals would care to answer the \$200,000 question is doubtful, especially if there were wire tapping of Hoffa. If it comes to matching money, few can compete with the Kennedy family.



Family Is Worried Over Disclosures

THE LABEL OF SNOBBERY could be even more damaging to a man who is dreaming of the White House. The Kennedy family is involved in a hassle with its hand-picked author, William Manchester, over an account of President Kennedy's death. His widow, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, who is being coached by Bobby, has repudiated the book as "both tasteless and distorted."

What the family is worried about is the disclosure of some confidences. These include a reference to President Johnson as "a country bumpkin" and indignation over the fact that Johnson boarded the Presidential plane after the assassination for the sad journey home, altho he was then President and the plane was his rather than the widow's or the Kennedy family's.

If the book should reveal the Kennedys, including Bobby, as arrogant and snobbish, it would not help Bobby's image any. It is little wonder, then, that the family is exerting every effort to suppress any book on the assassination that the Kennedys do not censor and control.

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