

SPYING FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

By Harry Campbell

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Block from the home of the great is a three-story concrete building with large glass doors. On the upper store on one side and the women's shop on the other it carries no signs or advertising. It wears an air of mystery and intrigue.

Pedestrians walking on the other side of Pennsylvania Avenue, past the big annex of the Library of Congress, can see men moving behind the blinds on the second and third floors. The ground floor is almost faceless except for the closed garage doors.

"I think that building with the garage doors is the center of FBI wiretapping on Capitol Hill," says a 26-year-old Senator's assistant and passionate conviction. "I can't prove a damn thing, but I know it."

Up another block, beyond the street-corner vendor selling cut flowers, is a small shop with a giant poster in the window bearing the words "Shhh, you're being bugged."

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It is the crypto-analysis section of the FBI crime laboratory where everything from horse race bookies mysterious jottings to the code of the master Soviet spy **Rudolph Ivanovich Abel** have been broken.

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Has an unreasonable fear of federal electronic surveillance activities developed — fueled in part by Eisenhower's own laugh talk disclosures of surveillance, and Democratic Leader Hale Boggs' charge that his telephone has been tapped by the FBI? The evidence indicates that federal agencies do more wiretapping and bugging than they officially admit — in a field that has increased significantly — but still do not do as much as many critics fear.

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"Look, there couldn't possibly be as much electronic interception as people seem to think there is," says a former official. "There isn't that many agents to do it or money around to monitor the damn taps or tapes."

The average cost of a federal electronic "intercept" last year was put at \$1,125.

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Although Attorney General Mitchell has ridiculed the far-out view of some in Washington who feel every room is bugged and that every phone is tapped and that the FBI is tapping the CIA, and the CIA is tapping the FBI, there is testimony that the FBI did tap an official CIA telephone.

In Washington, the center of FBI administration is relatively unguarded by the FBI's Washington field office, one block from the Justice Department and only three miles from the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.

"In the old days," recalls a former agent, "if you wanted to tap someone's telephone, you'd call the company and ..."

