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Senate Unit Seeks Data On Bugging

By Margaret Gentry
Associated Press

A Senate committee is demanding reams of secret information on Justice Department eavesdropping practices for the past six years.

The Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee is seeking details far more extensive than the department has ever made public about the wiretapping and bugging operations of the FBI.

The request has set off departmental debate over what information should be disclosed, what should be withheld and what should be proposed the committee keep it secluded only on the condition set.

The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), sent an 11-page questionnaire Jan. 8 to scores of government agencies with investigative functions. The Justice Department is one of the

[illegible] targets.

Jackson said at the time, "We must start by identifying, isolating and eliminating all unwarranted surveillance activities by the government itself. The civil liberties of all our citizens are at stake."

The committee and the department have not disclosed the content of the questionnaire, but a copy was obtained by The Associated Press.

The 11-page document asks for the names of all targets of wiretapping, bugging or other eavesdropping from Jan. 1, 1968, to the present. It asks for the dates of all attempted and actual eavesdropping and for the names, addresses and vocations of all persons whose conversations were overheard.

The subcommittee demands "the precise legal authority warranting such activity" in each case and also asks if the eavesdropping was conducted for criminal law enforcement, national security or other specific purposes.

The questionnaire asks who authorized each eavesdropping incident and what legal authority he had.

It also asks for the number of department employees "trained in monitoring, wiretapping, eavesdropping, any other interception activity" from Jan. 1, 1965, to Dec. 31, 1973, and the number actually engaged in eavesdropping activities at given points during that period.