

Paper Says IRSTapped Phones

BALTIMORE (UPI)—The Baltimore News American reported today that the Internal Revenue Service has been illegally tapping the newspaper's telephones. IRS officials denied authorizing any taps.

The newspaper says it learned of the eavesdropping from a source within the IRS when the source repeated to reporter Michael Olesker a telephone conversation between Olesker and Diane Schulte.

Miss Schulte is special counsel for a Maryland Senate committee investigating alleged illegal spying by Baltimore police.

IRS district director Gerald Portney said there was "no authorized electronic surveillance of any telephone at the News American." IRS regional inspector Emanuel Schuster

said none of his men "would conduct an illegal telephone tap."

The conversation that was allegedly taped concerned written testimony Olesker was to present the Senate committee March 24 regarding surveillance tactics of the IRS and the Baltimore police department's inspectional services division.

"My source repeated the entire conversation," Olesker said. "He knew exactly what I'd said and exactly what she'd said."

Olesker said the source told him the IRS was "upset" by a series of Olesker's stories on the alleged use of illegal wiretaps and collection of personal information on citizens by the IRS.

The newspaper said Olesker asked his source whether it

was possible Miss Schulte's telephone was the one being tapped. "No, they're upset by the stories you're writing," Olesker quoted the source as saying.