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Tapping of Hill Phones Charged By Montoya, Denied by Justice

DENVER, March 20 (AP)—
Sen. Joseph M. Montoya (D-
N.M.) says the Justice Depart-
ment has tapped private tele-

phone lines of U.S. senators
and congressmen. A depart-
ment spokesman denied this.

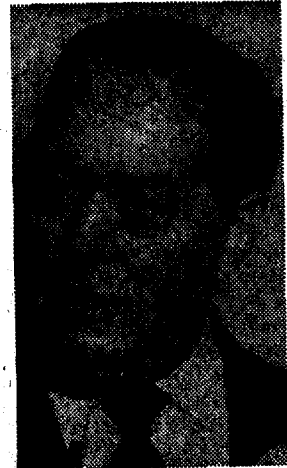
Montoya said in a speech to
Colorado's Jefferson-Jackson
Day Dinner Friday night that
the Nixon administration had
encouraged and actively par-
ticipated in "frightening inva-
sions of citizens' rights and
privileges."

"Even the United States
Senate is not immune to it,"
he said. "Several (members)
have plainly stated they be-
lieve their conversations have
been monitored."

Montoya said in an inter-
view afterward that he would
include the Justice Depart-
ment among those who have
tapped private telephones of
senators and House members.
He mentioned no names.

In Washington, the Justice
Department director of public
information, John Hushen,
said, "That's absolutely false. I
have no knowledge of any
such complaints."

In his speech, Montoya also
said the Post Office had
opened first-class mail without
its recipients' knowledge.



SEN. JOSEPH MONTOYA
... accuses administration