

The Harris Survey

35% Support Ford-Named CIA Panel

Feb 2/17/75
By Louis Harris

One out of every three Americans believes that President Ford made the right decision in appointing Vice President Rockefeller head of a special commission to investigate Central Intelligence Agency domestic spying and electronic surveillance.

In a recent Harris survey, a cross-section of 1,532 adults was asked:

President Ford has appointed a high-level commission headed by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller to look into the charges of domestic spying by the CIA and to come up with recommendations on how the CIA can be made to live up to the letter of the law. In general, do you think President Ford took the right action to get recommendations from a special commission headed by his own Vice President, or do you think he should have appointed a commission completely independent of the White House?

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|---|-----|
| Ford took right action | 35% |
| Should have commission independent of White House | 49% |
| Not sure | 16% |

Skepticism of Rockefeller's appointment is evident in the sampling's predictions of the commission's findings:

If you had to guess right now, do you think the special Rockefeller commission looking into suspected CIA irregularities will get to the root of any wrongdoing by the CIA, or do you think it will end up as another cover-up all over again?

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Will get to root of wrongdoing | 33% |
| Will end up as another cover-up | 43% |
| Not sure | 24% |

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Richardson Hinted at Tap On Pre-Nixon Lawmaker

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By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 — Former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson told a Senate hearing that he believed the Federal Bureau of Investigation had wiretapped at least one member of Congress and possibly two Congressional aides before the Nixon years, according to a report issued today by the two Senate subcommittees that conducted joint hearings last year.

The testimony, which received little public attention at the time, was cited by the subcommittees' report in its call for stronger Congressional control of electronic surveillance.

Mr. Richardson told a joint meeting of the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure and the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights that he learned of the reported incidents when the White House asked him in early 1973 to find out whether previous Admin-

istrations had become involved in the wiretapping and bugging of Congressmen. A survey conducted by the F.B.I. at Mr. Richardson's request apparently confirmed these earlier incidents, he said.

The Nixon Administration conducted wiretaps of 13 Government officials and four newsmen between 1969 and 1971.

Mr. Richardson's testimony marked the first time a Justice Department official had said under oath that he believed a Congressman had been tapped. He made his statement in response to a question by Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, chairman of one of the Administrative Practice subcommittee. He said he could not remember the name of the Congressman involved or the names of the aides. Senator

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Richardson Hinted at Pre-Nixon Taps

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Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, was chairman of the Constitutional Rights subcommittee.

The two subcommittees, which held six days of hearings last April and May, recommended in their report a general tightening of regulations on national security wiretapping and bugging. Electronic surveillance conducted on the ground of national security does not require a court order, as does wiretapping and bug-

ging in criminal cases.

The main recommendations of the two subcommittees called for better Congressional oversight and a centralization of the activity in the F.B.I. for better control.

The report recommended barring other agencies from conducting these types of wiretaps. At this juncture, several agencies are known to conduct electronic surveillance on national security grounds, including the Central Intelligence Agency and military intelligence units.

"Wiretapping for purposes of military security or national defense should be explicitly restricted to the F.B.I., with criminal penalties for other government employees or agents engaging in such activities," the report said.

It also recommended that the Government carefully review the usefulness of national security intrusions in the light of their effect on civil liberties, invasion of privacy questions and the "foreign policy risks involved."