

FBI Spied on Harriman House in 1970

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The Georgetown home of former Ambassador W. Averell Harriman was placed under FBI surveillance in the spring of 1970 so the government could find out who was attending what was described as a meeting of persons opposed to the Cambodia invasion, according to newly released congressional testimony.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in publishing edited testimony from last summer's closed hearings on the role of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in government wiretaps on the phones of four reporters and 13 federal officials, lists in its chronology:

"May 18, 1970—Sullivan sends DeLoach a memo reporting on what appears to be physical surveillance of a meeting at Averell Harriman's residence of State Department personnel who opposed the Cambodian operation. A handwritten note by Hoover says,

'An excellent job. I talked to Haldeman at Key Biscayne.'"

William C. Sullivan then was assistant director of the FBI for domestic intelligence; Cartha DeLoach was deputy to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, and H. R. (Bob) Haldeman was President Nixon's chief of staff. The wiretaps started May 12, 1969, and the last were removed Feb. 10, 1971. U.S. forces invaded Cambodia on April 30, 1970.

Harriman, contacted at his home in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., said he had "no recollection of any meeting" at his here at 3038 N St. NW. "People used to drop in to see me, by engagement, of course," Harriman said. "My views were well known ... I was opposed to what was going on."

Retired FBI agent Bernard Wells acknowledged to the Senate committee in closed session that he wrote the May 18, 1970, memo Sullivan sent DeLoach. He said the bureau wanted to identify who attended the meeting at Harri-

man's house but he denied that agents attempted to overhear what was said.

Wells indicated that the information that there was to be a meeting at the Harriman house came from one of the 17 wiretaps. The date of the 1970 meeting could not be ascertained, and a Foreign Relations Committee aide said that the May 18, 1970, date of the memo did not necessarily represent the date of the FBI surveillance.

The Foreign Relations Committee's edited transcripts indicate that there may have been other instances of physical surveillance during the wiretap program, which the administration started after a series of leaks on national security information. Committee staff aide Norvill Jones alluded to the possibility of another surveillance in one hearing, but gave no details, and Alexander M. Haig Jr., then top deputy to Kissinger, who at that time was Mr. Nixon's national security affairs ad-

viser, testified that "I got the impression that there was some physical surveillance ...

But I have no precise recollection of why I had that impression."

Thomas J. Smith, an inspector in the FBI's intelligence division, testified that "there was a physical surveillance, apparently, we cannot seem to find the origin of it. There were photographs of meetings between (deleted) and some other one of the pressmen involved. We have not been able to tie down precisely what caused that particular surveillance. There is evidence that there was one."

Asked by the committee about physical surveillance, Kissinger said in written testimony, "I do not know how the FBI carried out the investigations of the individuals involved, although I do know that in one case the director of the FBI talked about the possible use of physical surveillance ... I do not recall receiving any reports mentioning physical surveillance."