

20 other leaks of classified information, Mr. Nixon said. It was this leak that Mr. Nixon said "was directly responsible for the deaths of thousands of Americans because it required the discontinuance of a policy that saved American lives."

Mr. Nixon said the policy had to be stopped after it became public, because Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk — for internal political reasons — could only allow the bombing to continue on a secret basis. Mr.

Nixon referred to the bombing program as "The Menu Program — like you get at the Sans Souci, but it doesn't cost that much."

"I said that if this can leak, anything can leak," Mr. Nixon said in referring to the Cambodia bombing program.

Mr. Nixon said he suggested to Kissinger, who was then serving as national security adviser, that he call Hoover and provide information on persons who had access to the information. "I later learned he did furnish Mr. Hoover the names of

certain individuals that he thought might be potential leakers of this information," Mr. Nixon said.

"In this instance it was Dr. Kissinger's responsibility to furnish Mr. Hoover the names of individuals that he, Dr. Kissinger, felt might have had access to information or that . . . might have had a tendency to be loose-mouthed . . ." Mr. Nixon added.

The tap on Halperin's phone was placed by the FBI the weekend of May 9, although FBI records indicate it was not approved by the

Attorney General until Monday morning. The same weekend, Kissinger personally told Halperin he was suspected of leaking the information, and blocked his future access to such information.

No information was gathered on the tap to indicate that Halperin was leaking classified information to the press.

Kissinger has said Hoover first brought up Halperin's name as a tap target in a White House meeting with Mr. Nixon and Mitchell, and that he felt Nixon approved

that specific tap. There are no records to indicate that such a specific meeting occurred.

Mr. Nixon said in his deposition that he approved only a general program. "I told Dr. Kissinger that he should inform Mr. Hoover of any names that he considered prime suspects," Mr. Nixon said.

"That was Dr. Kissinger's responsibility. It was his responsibility not to control the program solely to furnish the information to Mr. Hoover. Mr. Hoover was to take it from there . . ." Mr.

Nixon said. "I have no recollection of Morton Halperin's name coming up."

Mr. Nixon used five pages of his deposition to discuss the types of confidential material to which White House employees such as Halperin were privy, and said he considered such information still confidential. Those pages of the deposition were deleted from the publicly filed copy.

In his continuing discourse on presidential secrecy, Mr. Nixon added that he did not discuss his China

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overtures with the head of the CIA or the secretary of Defense until long after they had begun.

Mr. Nixon said he gave no specific instructions to the FBI on how the wiretaps should be handled within the agency, and said he could not explain why the wiretaps were handled even outside the normal national security channels there.

"My guidelines, orally expressed, . . . were that a tap should be installed when necessary with justification and when not necessary, should be removed," the former president said. Although he said Kissinger could have recommended that a tap be removed, Mr. Nixon said the final decision would be up to Hoover or himself.

When pressed on whether he instructed Hoover or FBI agents to minimize the amount of eavesdropping on private conversations on taps such as that on Halperin's telephone, Mr. Nixon shot back to his inquisitor, American Civil Liberties Union attorney John F. Shattuck:

"No. I realize the ACLU is apparently not concerned about that kind of conversation in my own case (a reference to Mr. Nixon's battle to gain control of White House tapes), but apparently you are in this case; is that correct?"

"Shattuck: I am not sure that we aren't concerned about it any case in which it comes up, Mr. Nixon."

"Mr. Nixon: Are you

concerned? You are concerned about the revelation of private conversations between husband/wife and others. You don't believe that it should be publicized or should be made public? What is your position?"

"Shattuck: My question stands."

Mr. Nixon said later that he had never seen any wiretap reports on the Halperin surveillance, and specifically became aware of it only after Kissinger told him. Mr. Nixon also said he did not even know if Halperin had access to the Cambodian information that touched off the wiretap program.

The former President said he resented the general criticism of the wiretap program by members of the House Judiciary Committee that voted for his impeachment. Although wiretapping is "not a pleasant and not a preferable action" by any President, "it has proved in the past and during our administration . . . to be justified on a limited basis . . ."

"It is well for this suit to reflect on the basis of wiretapping and the abuses of surveillance and the abuses in the field of the use of wiretapping for political purposes," Mr. Nixon added in a four-page answer to one question. But, he continued, the ability of the U.S. to succeed in a foreign policy initiative might "take precedence" over an individual's right to privacy.

Mr. Nixon said the material gathered from the wiretaps was shifted from Kissinger to White House political aide H. R. (Bob) Halde-