

**Q.** I can understand someone like Charles Colson wiretapping his mother. I can understand someone like Murray Chotiner wiretapping his grandmother. But for someone like the President of the U.S. to wiretap Don Nixon, his own brother, that's inconceivable. Lyndon Johnson



didn't even do it to his brother, Sam. Why did Nixon do it to his brother, Don?—L.E., Bethesda, Md.

**A.** In 1956, Donald Nixon (above right) received a loan of more than \$200,000 from Howard Hughes to save the Nixon family restaurant chain in Southern California. Despite the loan, Donald Nixon filed for bankruptcy in 1961, and the loan was never repaid. That fact became a source of embarrassment to Richard Nixon in his subsequent political campaigns. The President's decision to have his brother wiretapped by the Secret Service was based on his worry about Donald Nixon's further financial arrangements, with Howard Hughes and others.

For example, the President's brother, Don, has a son, also named Don Nixon, who worked as a personal aide to Robert Vesco, the fugitive financier who contributed \$200,000 in a secret donation to the Nixon campaign last year allegedly in return for the dropping of a suit against him by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The suit was not dropped. Vesco hired young Nixon, and it was another Nixon brother, Ed, who allegedly saw to it that the Vesco contribution was made in cash.

The President is justified in keeping tabs on his brother. He may not be justified, however, in having the Secret Service perform that function. Sen. Joseph Montoya (D., N. Mex.) is looking into the matter.

Parade 10/14/73