

Panel Is Told Agents Followed Nix on Kin

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Former White House aide John J. Caulfield has told the staff of the Senate select Watergate committee that in addition to wiretapping President Nixon's brother, F. Donald Nixon, the Secret Service appeared to have conducted a physical surveillance of his activities, an informed source said yesterday.

Late Saturday President Nixon told the Associated Press Managing Editors convention that his brother was "aware during the fact" that a surveillance was being conducted on him and "he approved of it."

Caulfield's testimony that he had the impression that a physical surveillance was conducted in addition to a wiretap, raises the question why Donald Nixon would have to be followed if he knew of the surveillance, since he could simply have been asked whom he saw.

According to the source, Caulfield, who supervised numerous private investigations for the White House, was asked sometime in 1970 by presidential domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman to monitor a project being conducted by the Secret Service.

Without knowing what the project was, Caulfield reportedly contacted the Secret Service agents, who briefed him on a wiretap that they were conducting on Donald Nixon. The source said that the agents had a thick file on Donald Nixon, which they brought for the briefing, although Caulfield told the committee staff that he did not actually read the file.

In addition, Caulfield reportedly told the staff that he had seen a photograph of Donald Nixon with another man whom Caulfield could not identify that may have been taken at an airport. Caulfield reportedly concluded that the photograph could have been taken only if physical surveillance of Caulfield had been conducted.

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F. DONALD NIXON

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Secret Service agents did not tell him the purpose of their surveillance and Caulfield did not know how long the surveillance had been going on before he began monitoring it. Caulfield, the source said, guessed that the purpose of the project was to find out with whom Donald Nixon was associating.

The committee staff reportedly asked Caulfield whether the surveillance had anything to do with John Meier, a former aide to billionaire recluse Howard Hughes. Caulfield reportedly told the staff that he had heard Meier's name but could not put it together with the surveillance of Donald Nixon.

In confirming that his brother had been wiretapped, President Nixon said on Nov. 17 that the surveillance was conducted for "security reasons, and I will not go beyond that. They were very good reasons, and my brother was aware of it."

Asked if his brother knew of the surveillance before or after it was conducted, President Nixon said his brother "was aware during the fact, because he asked about it, and he was told about it. And, he approved of it. He knew why it was done."

"The surveillance," President Nixon said, in response to another question, "involved not what he was doing, the surveillance in-

involved what others who were trying to get him, perhaps to use improper influence and support might be doing, and particularly anybody who might be in a foreign country."

Donald Nixon received widespread public attention in 1960 when it was disclosed that Hughes had lent him \$205,000 in 1956 in an attempt to rescue Nixon's, Inc., a restaurant chain Donald Nixon operated in southern California.

The transaction became popularly known as the "Hughes loan" and led to severe criticism of Richard Nixon, who was then running for President, for allegedly having a role in negotiating it. Despite the loan, Donald Nixon filed for bankruptcy in 1961, leaving \$206,000 in debts. The loan was never repaid.

Donald Nixon now is a vice president of the Marriott Corporation, whose president, J. Willard Marriott, is a close friend of President Nixon and a major Republican campaign contributor.

In the last five years periodic news reports have referred to attempts by Ehrlichman and Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, President Nixon's close friend to keep Donald Nixon out of trouble.

Caulfield reportedly told the committee staff that the Secret Service agents gave him oral reports on their activities two or three times a week. Caulfield, according to the source, said the surveillance was unproductive and that after three or four weeks, the Secret Service agents asked to have it terminated. Caulfield reportedly told the committee staff that he checked back with Ehrlichman, who agreed to the termination of the surveillance.

When asked to comment on Caulfield's testimony, a White House spokesman said yesterday that "as President indicated, this is related to security and we would have nothing to say which would expand on the President's remarks at this time."