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Did Bay of Pigs trigger

BOSTON (AP) — President John F. Kennedy's personal secretary says her boss secretly taped White House conversations as a memoir-writing help. Another former aide, however, speculates the bugging may have been triggered because staff members tried to deny their role in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion.

"He had a very good sense of history," Evelyn Lincoln, Kennedy's personal secretary, said Thursday night in an interview on the ABC News program "Nightline."

"All we did during the time we worked with him was to record

everything we possibly could so he could have them for his memoirs after he left the White House," she said.

On Thursday, the morning after the extent of Kennedy's White House tapes was revealed, the John F. Kennedy Library, where the recordings are housed, released a 29-page index of names of scores of people whose talks with the 35th president were secretly recorded.

The release of the index outraged some of those who were recorded in telephone conversations or personal chats with Kennedy. Others said they didn't care.

Pierre Salinger, Kennedy's press secretary, theorized the system was begun after the unsuccessful invasion of Cuba in 1961 because Kennedy "was quite outraged at this effort of people disassociating themselves from something that they had been centrally involved in."

"And I think that may have been a motivation for the starting of tapes ... so that he could have an accurate record when he sat down and wrote his view," Salinger said. The former press secretary, now a correspondent for ABC News, said he was unaware of the tapes until the Kennedy

Kennedy tapes?

family announced their existence in 1973.

Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., one of those whose conversations with the late president were recorded secretly, said: "I consider it highly improper for anyone to record the conversation of a friend without informing the friend that a recording is being made."

Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk disagreed, saying: "I don't understand what all the shooting is about."

"I didn't mind if the whole world heard what I had to say," said former Mississippi Gov. Ross

R. Barnett, recalling many telephone conversations with Kennedy during the forced integration of the University of Mississippi.

Kennedy's defense secretary, Robert S. McNamara, agreed with Rusk.

"It doesn't bother me one way or another," McNamara told The New York Times. "I never said a thing to him I wasn't willing to stand by."

But Frederick G. Dutton, an assistant secretary of state under Kennedy, said he was "bothered."

The Times quoted Dutton as saying, "I don't think presidents

have more rights to invade privacy than anyone else."

Former President Gerald Ford, who did not bug his office or phones, deplored the Kennedy tapes.

"I think it's unfortunate," Ford said. "I don't think it should have been done. I hope in the future that such recordings will not be undertaken by any president."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, in a statement issued Thursday, said "after transcripts of the recordings are prepared and released, Americans will continue to be proud of the presidency of John Kennedy."