

Watergate Tape Taken In Break-In

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By Jim Landers

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A tape recording containing "sensitive information" related to the Watergate investigation has been stolen from the Washington office of an ABC newsman, the network reported yesterday.

The tape was stolen from the office of ABC news correspondent Bill Gill earlier this month and discovered missing on Aug. 10. John Lynch, manager of the ABC news bureau in Washington, said yesterday.

"The tape contained a summary of a long discussion he (Gill) had with a source," said Lynch. He described the discussion as "sensitive information he had recorded as part of his investigation" into the Watergate case.

Gill was on assignment in Miami and not immediately available for comment.

Lynch said the tape was one of five stolen from Gill's office, along with a folder containing Gill's notes on other aspects of the Watergate case. A radio and two tape recorders were also stolen, Lynch said.

Lynch said the burglary occurred this month, sometime between Wednesday, Aug. 8 and Friday, Aug. 10, while Gill was away from the office. ABC said the burglary was reported to police the day it was discovered. D.C. police had no comment last night.

Gill shares his third floor office at the ABC Washington News bureau located at 1124 Connecticut Ave. NW with White House correspondent Tom Jarriel. Jarriel's desk had also been disturbed, said Lynch.

He said the office was locked at the time and that there was no sign of a forced entry. A fire escape alongside the building leading to the third floor was reported tampered with on the night of Aug. 8 by security guards at the network building.