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PEOPLE

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Republicans Fail At 'Bugging' Attempt

By Marilyn Berger

There was an open attempt to bug the regular State Department briefing yesterday. But the perpetrator, an operative from the Committee for the Re-election of the President, was asked to leave before he could set his tapes in motion.

James Randall, who was identified by the committee as an "audio man," had set up his microphone and sat himself in the front row of the briefing room to record the words of Marchall Green, assistant secretary of state for Asia and the Far East, who was reporting on his recent trip to the region.

When it became clear who had set up a tape, in a briefing where recorders are prohibited, one reporter said: "I think that fellow should leave."

Randall said he was unaware of the prohibition and

proceeded to pick up his tape in an attache case. He left as Green was halfway into his talk.

De Van Shumway, chief spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, said later that one committee function is to disseminate news. "We have used administration spokesmen for our audio service," he said, "just as the Democratic National Committee uses prominent Democrats for its audio service."

By leaving when he did, Randall failed to get a tape of Green discussing recent events in Asia. He also failed to get Green on tape, telling how when he was served black eggs that first breakfast in Peking, he refrained from telling his hosts that "the eggs in China are either foo yong or foo old."