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# Shriver's Partner Pleads Ignorance Of Bugging Claim

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — A law partner of Democratic vice presidential nominee Sargent Shriver said Saturday "it could well be" true that the FBI found an electronic bugging device in her office, but, if so, no one told her about it.

Shriver charged in a Philadelphia speech Friday that a wiretap had been found on the telephone of Patricia Roberts Harris, with whom he shares a law office in the same Watergate building in Washington where the Democratic National Committee has its headquarters.

He said the FBI turned up the tap during a sweep of the building shortly after five men were arrested in the party offices with bugging gear June 17.

"IT COULD well be . . ." Mrs. Harris told UPI in a telephone interview. "But they did not tell me that. There was no indication that there was a bug in my office. But I must confess I did not pursue it."

Mrs. Harris, who was chairman of the Credentials Committee for the recent Democratic National Convention, said she had asked the FBI to check the law firm's office on a hunch.

"Somebody tried to break into our office two weeks before the bugging — the break-in — at the national committee," she said. "After the break-in at the national committee, it occurred to me that the break-in at our place may have been related, so I asked for a sweep of our office. I was not told that anything turned up."

MRS. HARRIS said officials "very well could have" told Shriver but not her what they found. She said she had not discussed it with him.

"He and I haven't talked about this," she said. "At least, I don't remember talking about it."

An aide to Shriver said after his speech that the tele-



Sargent Shriver  
... says FBI found tap

phone bug had been found "two to four weeks ago," before Shriver went on the Democratic ticket with Sen. George S. McGovern.

"To our knowledge, the FBI does not know who planted the bug," the aide said. "From all we know, it might have been planted by another law firm or company."

IN A SEPARATE statement issued in Washington, Shriver branded as "excessive" a 7.7 per cent annual increase in stockholders' dividends announced last week by the American Telephone and Telegraph Co.

He conceded that because of a special carryover provision, the increase did not violate the administration's 4 per cent limit on dividend increases under the economic stabilization program.

But he added: "Consumers all across the country are fed up with poor telephone service . . . The Price Commission should not allow another increase in telephone rates until it conducts a complete investigation of AT&T's rate and profit structure."

The Price Commission now has only indirect control over telephone rate increases, having surrendered most authority to the state and local regulatory agencies which customarily rule on such rate requests.