Office Bugged, Shriver Says

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Democratic vice presidential nominee Sargent Shriver claims his partner's law office was bugged, but the supposed victim of the bugging says it's not so.

Shriver departed from his prepared speech text to tell a Philadelphia audience Friday night, "The FBI came in to screen my office . . . to sweep it."

That was done, he said, because eavesdroppers "had been in there bugging the line."

Later, his press secretary, Donald Mc-Clure, said Shriver referred to an eavesdropping device found in the office telephone of his law partner, Patricia Roberts Harris, also prominent in party affairs and chairman of the Democratic National Convention's Credentials Committee.

He said FBI agents removed the device from her telephone.

Questioned about the report early Saturday, Mrs. Harris said, "I don't think that is accurate."

She confirmed that the investigation took place, but said no bugging equipment was found in her office.

Shriver raised the subject in discussing the June break-in at Democratic National

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FBI Took Eavesdropper's Bug Device From Partner's Office, Shriver Says

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Committee headquarters which then was located in the Watergate complex.

Five men, including the former security director of President Nixon's campaign organization, were charged with the breakin. Eavesdropping equipment was confiscated from them at the time of the arrests.

Shriver linked the alleged bugging of his law firm's office, also in the Watergate complex, with the alleged bugging at DNC head-quarters.

Neither Shriver nor McClure elaborated further on the incident.

But Mrs. Harris suggested that Shriver had been misinformed and related this account:

Sometime before the DNC breakin, there was an attempt to break into the law offices shared by her, Shriver, and Max Kampelman, also a prominent Democrat.

"We didn't think it was anything other than a routine robbery," she said.

But, after the DNC incident, she suggested a "sweep" of the offices "on the off chance" that the two incidents were related.

She said she asked the DNC to arrange for the investigation and assumes it was the FBI that conducted it.



Sargent Shriver ... 'FBI came in'