

The President's Nocturnal

By Maxine Cheshire

Even before President Nixon installed all those super-sensitive bugging devices in other rooms of the White House, he kept a tape recorder by his bedside.

According to First Lady Pat Nixon, the gadget disturbed her rest and made her decide to occupy a bedroom.

"I'll have to have a room of my own," she told staff members when the Nixons were moving into the Executive Mansion during the inaugural week of 1969. "Nobody could sleep with Dick. He wakes up during the night, switches on the lights and speaks into his tape recorder or takes notes. It's impossible."

President Nixon's nocturnal taping habits are revealed in the memoirs of former usher J. Bernard West, which will be published by Coward-McCann next month under the title: "Upstairs At the White House."

It was West who took the Nixons on their first tour of the private quarters they would be occupying in the years ahead. According to West's account, the President seemed concerned about being bugged himself.

Peeking underneath the bed which had been occupied previously by LBJ and JFK, President Nixon was highly suspicious of a "cat's cradle of electric wires" he found there, says West.

"What on earth is all this?" he demanded.

West informed him that the tangle of wiring was necessary for the elaborate console phone system, tape recorders, remote television controls for three sets "and heaven knows what else."

"I don't want any of that under here," the President replied. "Take it all out, whatever it is."

The wires were removed. So was the massive canopy bed occupied by Mr. Nixon's Democratic predecessors. Mrs. Nixon went to the storeroom and found for him the simple double bed which President Eisenhower had used.

Potpourri

The wife of Rep. William S. Cohen (R-Maine) is a look-alike for Eleanor McGovern and isn't surprised when someone unfamiliar with Washington gets confused.

VIP

But Mrs. Cohen was startled at a party at the Iranian Embassy the other night when Secretary of State William P. Rogers turned to her and asked: "Eleanor, where's George?" . . . At the same party, for the Shah of Iran, Vermont's 81-year-old Sen. George Aiken wore the most mod outfit in the room. With an orchid-colored shirt and a purple velvet bow-tie, he left his jacket unbuttoned to show off bright red fireman's

Tapings

suspenders . . . The vegetable garden which was the late Rep. Hale Boggs' pride is being maintained as a small personal memorial alongside the driveway of his Bradley Boulevard home. A member of his widow's congressional staff did the planting and the weeding . . . Sen. Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy's staff gets the use of his swimming pool in McLean when his family is away. He has covered it over with a plastic bubble which makes it usable 12 months of the year. Now his aides are hinting that they wish he would get around to installing cabana and toilet facilities.

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EX-NIXON WRITER REPORTED TAPPED

Safire Is Said to Have Been
Among 13 Surveilled

8/5/73
By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4—The Nixon Administration ordered a telephone wiretap on William Safire, when he was one of the President's three speechwriters, as part of a two-year effort to find and stop leaks of classified Government information to the press, according to Federal officials.

One official said that wiretap was installed sometime between May, 1969, and February, 1971, and was one of 13 "national security" surveillances on Administration officials authorized by Mr. Nixon. Mr. Safire is now a columnist for The New York Times.

Officials previously identified as having been wiretap targets were affiliated with the National Security Council, headed by Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's national security adviser.

Mr. Kissinger said in a telephone interview yesterday that, although he had "provided some of the names" of individuals suspected as security leaks, Mr. Safire's was not among them.

Kissinger Comments

"It is inconceivable to me that Safire was part of it Mr. Kissinger said. But Mr. Kissinger conceded that he could not be certain because he had not recommended all the names.

Besides the 13 wiretaps placed on Government officials suspected of leaks, four were directed at newsmen, including two reporters of The New York Times, who were believed to be receiving classified national security information.

One Federal law-enforcement official, noting that logs of the overhead conversations compiled by the F.B.I. were sent routinely to Mr. Kissinger's office, said it was "inconceivable" to him that Mr. Kissinger could not have known of the tap on Mr. Safire.

Mr. Safire is the first White House official to be identified as a wiretap target. Gerald L. Warren, the deputy White House press secretary, said yesterday, "We've made it a practice not to comment on this situation, and we wouldn't care to discuss this either."

Asked why he might have been regarded as a potential security leak, Mr. Safire said that in writing speeches for Mr. Nixon, he had seen "a lot of top-secret, eyes-only stuff" on national security and foreign policy.

Caller Names Nixon in

8/10/73
By Jules Witcover
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon has been named as a defendant in a formal complaint to the Federal Communications Commission by a White House

caller who says his conversation was recorded without his prior knowledge.

The FCC in turn has served a formal notice on the two suppliers of White House telephone service, the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. and American Telephone and Telegraph Co.

The notice says that the two phone companies are required not later than Aug. 17 to "satisfy this complaint . . . or answer the same in writing."

Under FCC procedures, the suppliers of service and not the users are subject to control, and thus the suppliers are responsible for bringing about compliance of regulations by users, or terminating service. Accordingly, no notice has been served on the President, the FCC said yesterday.

Under federal tariff regulations governing telephone

service, phone calls are not supposed to be recorded without use of a "beeper" signal during conversations to warn either party that the call is being recorded.

The complainant, Robert G. McCann, a San Francisco airlines engineer, told the FCC he was informed by a White House official last October, after giving him a message for Mr. Nixon protesting his Vietnam bombing policy, that the message had been recorded.

The official, identified by McCann in the complaint as Walter Edwards, also told him that "we record all in-White House, McCann said. A later check of White House personnel uncovered no one by that name.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Gerlad L. Warren said last month, when the charge first surfaced, that "it was not the practice of the White House to record all incoming calls

FCC Complaint

at that time and it is not the practice now."

Last November, after McCann informally complained to FCC, the regulatory agency asked C&P to investigate. The phone company replied that the White House had reported it "is fully cognizant of and acts in accordance with applicable telephone company tariffs concerning the use of recording devices."

But McCann told the FCC he was not satisfied. Shortly after the disclosures last month that some White House offices and phones

were bugged under an extensive internal system, McCann said he intended to file a formal complaint.

A C&P spokesman, asked yesterday what the phone company intended to do about the complaint, drew attention to news reports on July 21 that the White House had stopped the practice of taping conversations without telling participants.

The spokesman said C&P was conducting "a thorough investigation" and would report to the FCC. An AT&T spokesman said AT&T was working with C&P on a coordinated reply to the FCC.