

Caulfield Details Kraft Wiretapping

By Jack Anderson

Former White House under-coverman John Caulfield has told Senate investigators about his role in wiretapping President Nixon's brother, Donald, and columnist Joseph Kraft.

These sensitive telephone taps were ordered by the President's righthand man, John D. Ehrlichman, who apparently didn't trust the FBI to do the tapping "because it was a 'sieve.'"

The Secret Service not only tapped Donald Nixon's phone, according to a summary of Caulfield's closed-door testimony, but conducted "personal surveillance" of him.

"Caulfield was to monitor this project to determine if it had any merit," states the summary. "Caulfield did not listen to any of the tapes resulting from the surveillance, but merely kept abreast of the information that was being reported by the Secret Service.

"This wiretap was placed when Donald Nixon was out in California, and Caulfield recalls receiving telephone calls from Secret Service contacts who would report that nothing was happening.

"After three weeks, Caulfield reported to Ehrlichman that there was nothing of value coming from the surveillance, and he recommended that it should be canceled. The surveillance was allegedly terminated fol-

lowing Caulfield's recommendation."

As the "action officer within the White House on Nixon family problems," Ehrlichman also "gave Caulfield the assignment of tracking Donald Nixon, Jr., when he got into some trouble in the Sierra Madre, California." Caulfield sent a private eye, Anthony Ulasewicz, to California "to investigate the situation and report it back to Ehrlichman."

The Joseph Kraft tap was ordered in June, 1969. "Ehrlichman requested that Caulfield arrange the tap within the next 24 hours," states the summary. "Ehrlichman explained that he could not use the FBI because it was a 'sieve,' and therefore it was necessary for Caulfield to do this tap.

"After looking at the Georgetown neighborhood where Kraft lived, Caulfield went back to Ehrlichman to explain the serious difficulties inherent in placing a wiretap in that neighborhood. Ehrlichman again emphasized that the tap had to be done and so instructed Caulfield.

"Caulfield told Ehrlichman that he would contact Jack Ragan, his contact from the 1968 campaign. Ragan and Caulfield went to the neighborhood together to survey the proposed tap, and Ragan told Caulfield that he would need (more technical information) in order to implement the wiretap. Caulfield got this information for

Ragan from a friend of Caulfield's in the Secret Service.

"Caulfield again went to Ehrlichman and said that a phone installer card would be necessary in case someone were caught while tampering with the telephone line. Ehrlichman instructed Caulfield to go to John Davies, then on the White House staff, to get this card. Davies gave the card to Caulfield who passed it on to Ragan.

"About a week or ten days following the initial request from Ehrlichman, Caulfield was again called by Ehrlichman who said to cancel the wiretap because (the late FBI chief J. Edgar) Hoover would take care of it. Caulfield called Ragan to call off the tap, and Ragan told him, 'It's done.'"

Caulfield testified that he later obtained the telephone tape from Ragan and "destroyed it by placing it in one of the burn bags without ever telling Ehrlichman about this tape."

Footnote: My associate George Clifford reached Donald Nixon who refused to comment on the story. "But I will say this," he said, "you fellows will have a day of reckoning. There have been a lot of stories written. I have a whole drawer full of them. The stories about me by Jack Anderson and many others are 95 per cent untrue and false."

Ragan's attorney, Philip Her-

rick, said Ragan couldn't comment because he is talking to the Senate Watergate committee about the Kraft tap. The White House said Davies is now in Hawaii, but repeated calls to Hawaii failed to locate him. Ehrlichman, approached through his attorney, had no comment. Kraft was unavailable in the Middle East when we went to press.

Washington Whirl—One of the Smithsonian Institution's most fascinating historical items probably will never be put on exhibit at the famous museum. It's the list of contributions to the Nixon campaign from the Smithsonian Associates' National Board. Of 27 members on the board, 16 coughed up more than \$340,000... The prestigious accounting firm of Coopers and Lybrand did the auditing to back up President Nixon's public statements about his San Clemente land deal. Now we've learned the firm got a \$242,000 contract from the Justice Department to develop an accounting system for its Law Enforcement Assistance Administration... The Washington Post's rapier-penned columnist Maxine Cheshire has signed up to do a book for \$150,000 to be called tentatively "VIP." One of her unprinted episodes involves a busty Playboy centerfold model who dated Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

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