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Congressman's Phone May Have Been Tapped

From News Dispatches

ROCKFORD, Ill., June 9
—Rep. John B. Anderson
says he believes his tele-
phone may have been tap-
ped at the time he fought

against a wish of the Nixon
administration.

The Illinois Republican,
who is chairman of the
House Republican Confer-
ence, told newsmen Friday
the suspected phone tap at
his Maryland home occurred
in April, 1969, when "I was
involved in some matters of
dispute with the administra-
tion."

He said the disputes con-
cerned primarily "the exten-
sion of the Voting Rights
Act. (John) Mitchell (then
the U.S. Attorney General)
wanted that watered down,
and I spoke against that,"
he said.

"My wife and I have been
highly suspicious of the
number of times a telephone
repair truck stopped outside
our home," he said.

"Linemen, or persons who
appeared to be linemen,
would climb the telephone
poles and appeared to be
working with the lines," he
said.

He said the suspected
phone tap apparently ended
"when my wife marched out
to the men one day and
asked, 'What are you doing?
Are you bugging our
telephone?'"

"He packed up his equip-
ment without ever answer-
ing her, left and that's been
the last of it," he said.

Anderson said he had not
previously spoken about the
incident because "I did not
wish to sensationalize it.

"In view of the type of
mentality which apparently
existed in the Justice De-
partment at that time and
looking back at that in-
cident today, it does not at
least seem implausible it
happened."