

Secret Bug in Nixon's Oval Office

New York

President Nixon's Oval Office in the White House was

bugged, with or without his knowledge, for several months in 1970, a well-known

former New York Times reporter said yesterday.

In a report in *Penthouse* magazine, Tad Szulc said a tiny laser beam transmitter was installed by a foreign-born house painter, known to him, who was employed by the U.S. government "and apparently controlled by one of the intelligence agencies."

The device, the article claimed, was known as "Easy Chair" and relayed every conversation, even those conducted over scram-

bler telephones, to a remote recording center. It did not say where this was.

The article said the laser transmitter was so sophisticated it permitted identification of every individual voice in the room and could separate several simultaneous conversations.

The report said that the device was removed in August, 1970, but that previously it had escaped detection by the Secret Service.

Associated Press