

# A Startling Report on FBI Bugging

Washington

The FBI has been tapping telephones and bugging Americans in noncriminal cases for 40 years, and it continues to use these and more advanced techniques despite increased legal restrictions, a Senate intelligence committee staff report said yesterday.

Conversations of American citizens have been vulnerable to monitoring by government agents without warrants in violation of constitutional rights, the report said.

Electronic methods range from conventional wire taps to microphones secretly planted in private locations or on "mobile informants"; so-called "spike mikes" which can be inserted into the wall of an adjoining room, and parabolic microphones, directed at "targets" in train stations or on streets and effective over long distances.

A telephone can be turned into a "mikotel" capable of intercepting a conversation within hearing range — with or without the phone in use.

"Even more sophisticated technology permits the government to intercept any telephone, telegram or Telex communication which is transmitted at least partially through the air — as most such communications now are," the report said.

Similar methods are used by the National Security Agency and

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the CIA, which, according to past disclosures, even devised a "bugged" toothbrush. But the staff report concentrated on the FBI.

An FBI spokesman said the agency would have no comment "until we have had ample time to read the report."

He said the FBI continues to conduct electronic surveillance under court warrants in organized crime cases and with the permission of the President or Attorney General in foreign intelligence or espionage cases.

The report on electronic surveillance is one of 13 volumes being issued by the committee in support of its report on domestic spying.

In Fulton, Mo., Saturday, FBI Director Clarence Kelley issued a public apology for past FBI misdeeds. For the first time he acknowledged that FBI officials had abused their power and subtly criticized his predecessor, the late J. Edgar Hoover, for allowing the abuses.

Techniques "have understandably enabled these agencies to obtain valuable information rele-

vant to their legitimate intelligence missions," the Senate staff report said.

But by its very nature, electronic surveillance allows the collection of "vast amounts of information unrelated to any legitimate governmental interest about large numbers of American citizens."

Nothing is immune from interception, the report said, and it included excerpts from one FBI telephone tap that stolidly reported the wife of the "target" ordering meat from a grocer, revealing a daughter's toothache and chatting about milk bills, soap operas and church.

Telephone taps and other surveillance have been approved and sometimes ordered by presidents back to Franklin D. Roosevelt and attorneys general back to William D. Mitchell in 1931 during the Hoover administration.

*United Press*