

On the fundamental issue of

20 June 69
NY Times

Letter

Unchecked Wiretapping

To the Editor:

I was disturbed by the implications of your news article of June 14 detailing unsupervised wiretapping by the Justice Department. Such action represents a serious affront to our right of privacy, as protected by the Fourth Amendment.

Has the Executive Branch now become so imperious and insulated from the people that it may take measures against supposed threats to our nation without even Congressional or judicial approval? If so, then we are just that much closer to a fascist society.

Wiretapping of any sort is odious, but at least previously the Supreme Court guaranteed some protection against its unrestricted use. Now this protection is to be abolished by executive *diktat*.

To those of us who have felt a growing alienation from our Government since our involvement in Vietnam, this disclosure of police-state tactics just deepens our revulsion. Something must be done—and soon.

The democratic elective process seems to be an unsuccessful method of change, and forceful means are unpalatable. Maybe the only answer will be to pack our bags as oppressed people have done before, and leave for more liberal shores.

STEPHEN M. FACTOR, M.D.
Ann Arbor, Mich., June 15, 1969

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