

Fewer Bugs, Wiretaps Last Year

Washington

Electronic surveillance by states and the federal government declined in 1974, a government report showed yesterday.

The report by the administration office of the U.S. courts, required by Congress in the 1968 Omnibus Crime Act, included wiretaps and bugs installed or removed during 1974, and did not include those still in use at the end of the year.

The report showed federal agencies made only 120 installations, continuing a downward trend that has been under way since 1971.

The states reported 574, marking the first reduction since the annual reporting began. All these installations were made in just 16 states. Others reported they used no electronic surveillance.

The report is designed to include all electronic surveillance which must get court approval. It does not

Betty Ford Has Checkup

Washington

President Ford's wife Betty underwent a cancer checkup yesterday and doctors found everything "completely normal," a White House spokesman said.

Mrs. Ford underwent surgery in September for removal of her right breast due to cancer.

United Press

include the federal government's national security surveillance which the attorney general may authorize without court approval.

Starting with the first full-year report for 1969, there were 30 federal installations. This number increased to 179 in 1970 and 281 in 1971, then dropped to 205 in 1972 and 130 in 1973.

The few states that report-

ed installations have consistently used collectively far more electronic surveillance than the federal government. They reported 241 installations in 1969, 403 in 1970, 511 in 1971, 636 in 1972 and 682 in 1973.

"There were 305 orders authorized by state judges in New York, representing 50 per cent of all authorizations by state judges," the administrative office said in a summary. "In New Jersey state judges signed 133 orders or 23 per cent of all state orders signed."

However, New York did

not use three of its authorizations and New Jersey failed to use one.

Arizona reported ten installations, Colorado four, Connecticut 11, Delaware three, Florida 18, Georgia 20, Kansas 19, Maryland 27, Massachusetts 20, Nebraska nine, New Hampshire 13, Rhode Island eight and Virginia one.

Oregon obtained one state court authorization but the administrative office said it did not receive a prosecutor's report showing it was used.

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