

Wallace Admits His Wife Secretly Tapped His Phone

Montgomery, Ala.

Governor George C. Wallace admitted yesterday that his wife had secretly ordered his bedroom telephone tapped.

He called it "a purely domestic matter" and refused to explain it.

"There were some tapes and a device" found in the governor's mansion, Wallace told a hastily called news conference. He said the tapes had been destroyed.

"There were no politics involved at all," Wallace said. "No one has been hurt. No one has been harmed."

Wallace's attractive wife, Cornelia, who has said she may run for governor when Wallace steps down, was not at the news conference.

Wallace refused to explain the "domestic matter" that brought the

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taping, and said the press should drop the matter because it "remains the business of me and my wife" and did not involve his duties as governor.

Wallace is 57. His wife is 37.

Wallace, looking drawn and tired, began by saying: "Being in politics is very difficult . . . of course, it's been more difficult since I was shot in 1972."

Reports published and broadcast in the past two days have said security personnel found a tape recorder and a tap on the telephone in Wallace's bedroom last month at the mansion.

The reports said hundreds of tapes were found dating from last September until early August of this year.

The governor said he resented reports that speculated Mrs. Wallace had political motives in ordering the taping.

Mrs. Wallace has said she is considering running for governor in 1978. Wallace said he did not expect her to run, but added, "If she does, I will be for her as strong as I was for my first wife."

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