

Goldwater's Wiretap Hints

Washington

Senator Barry Goldwater (Rep-Ariz.) charged yesterday, admittedly on hearsay, that the Democrats as well as the Republicans engaged in political wiretapping in the 1972 campaign.

Goldwater made his accusation at a breakfast meeting with reporters and said it was based "on a few little facts" he declined to disclose, and added:

"Just be patient . . . you've been reporting hearsay for a long time. Report this . . . This came to me from sources I can't disclose, so shut up about it."

Speaking of the political espionage scandal centered around the Watergate break-in incident, Goldwater said:

"The Democrats are going to be in this in a very livid, vivid way." He was not referring to the Watergate incident itself, he said, but to other political bugging.

DUTY

But when pressed for details, Goldwater backed away. "I have no duty to tell it," he said. He has not reported what he had heard to the Justice Department, he said, because "I've only been told this."

And he added of the subject he had raised voluntarily: "For Christ's sake, get off this subject. I'm not going to talk about it."

Though he raised the matter in a discussion of the Watergate case, Goldwater acknowledged that what he had heard about was not of the scope of that affair, and he said he doubted disclosure would lead to any indictments.

RUMORS

Goldwater also said he had heard "rumors I can't prove that (Senator Edmund S.) Muskie was bugging Senator George S.) McGovern and vice - versa" but he did not elaborate.

Informed of Goldwater's remark, spokesmen for both McGovern and Muskie denied either campaign ever had engaged in bugging.

"It's not true," a McGovern aide said. "He (Goldwater) ought to be cautious about accusing people of crimes."

Maynard Toll, aide to Muskie, said: "If we were bugged from any source we don't know about it. Any suggestion that we bugged anyone is utterly ridiculous."

Washington Post Service