

DELOACH LINKED TO KOPECHNE DATA

JUN 28 1973

Reportedly Obeyed Request
for Report on Drowned Girl

NYTimes

WASHINGTON, June 27 —

A former F.B.I. official, Cartha D. DeLoach, reportedly obeyed a White House request in the summer of 1969 for a report on Mary Jo Kopechne, who had drowned in the auto of Senator Edward M. Kennedy at Chappaquiddick Island, but has denied that the F.B.I. wiretapped President Nixon in 1968. Mr. DeLoach, former No. 3 man under the late J. Edgar Hoover until retiring in July, 1971, was named twice in the Senate testimony yesterday of the former White House counsel John W. Dean 3d.

One reference was to the F.B.I. report on Miss Kopechne. The other was to Mr. Dean's statement that President Nixon thought Mr. DeLoach was probably lying about whether Mr. Nixon was bugged in the last year of the Johnson Administration.

Mr. DeLoach, now an official of Pepsico Corporation, of Purchase, N. Y., declined to comment on the two allegations.

However, other sources confirmed that the F.B.I. did report to the White House on Miss Kopechne's background but said that there was never a tap on Mr. Nixon in the campaign year of 1968.

Kleindienst Named

Mr. Dean said that the White House request for a report on Miss Kopechne reached the Justice Department, where he was working in mid-1969, and was relayed to him by the then Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst.

Mr. Dean said, "Kleindienst instructed me to call Mr. DeLoach, then deputy director of the F.B.I., and obtain from him information regarding the foreign travels of Mary Jo Kopechne. I was told Mr. DeLoach would be expecting a call from me, and once I had the information in hand, I was to give it to Jack Caulfield at the White House."

Sources said that the F.B.I. inquiry into Miss Kopechne disclosed that she had been bilked out of several hundred dollars by a young man while she was working in the office of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, but that there was no indication of foreign travel.

These sources professed to be mystified by Mr. Dean's reference to "foreign travel" by Miss Kopechne because the F.B.I. did not discover that she had ever traveled abroad.

The report sent to the White House, apparently in aid of Mr. Caulfield's assignment to develop political intelligence on Edward Kennedy, was based on her own complaint to the police and the F.B.I. that she had been victimized for between \$300 and \$500 in bad checks.

Met at a Party

The F.B.I. discovered that the young man who had cheated Miss Kopechne had met her at a Georgetown party. He pretended to be a Georgetown University student and got her to cash three of four checks for him before abruptly dropping out of her life. The F.B.I. discovered that he had a long record for passing bad checks.

The sources said that they did not know why the Nixon White House was interested in Miss Kopechne's "foreign travel" but speculation is that it was an effort to learn whether any trip of hers coincided with any of Edward Kennedy's.

There was no evidence of any trip by the girl from Plymouth, Pa., and no evidence of any personal connection with Mr. Kennedy until she went for the fatal auto ride with him in July, 1969. She drowned but he escaped when the car plummeted off a wooden bridge into tidal currents.

Mr. DeLoach also figured in the Dean-Nixon meeting on March 1. Mr. Dean said:

"The President told me he was convinced that he had been wiretapped in 1968, and the fact that DeLoach had not been forthcoming indicated to the President that DeLoach was probably lying.

"He told me I should call Don Kendall, DeLoach's employer, and tell him that DeLoach had better start telling the truth because 'the boys are coming out of the woodwork.' He said this play was smoke DeLoach out."

In a Feb. 9, 1973, White House memorandum, which Mr. Dean gave to the Senate Watergate committee yesterday, the former Presidential aide H. R. Haldeman also mentioned Mr. DeLoach and the alleged 1968 bugging.

Telling Mr. Dean to "get the fullest possible information" about that, Mr. Haldeman instructed Mr. Dean to have former Attorney General John N. Mitchell get in touch with Mr. Kendall and have "Kendall call DeLoach in and say that if this project turns up anything that DeLoach hasn't covered with us, he will, of course, have to fire him."

NYTimes 26 Jun 73,
p. 34, col. 4