



The New York Times  
 State Representative Julian Bond, left, of Georgia and an aide, Yancey Martin, listening to testimony during yesterday's session of the Watergate case in Old Senate Building.

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**White House Phone Tap Inquiry Due**

By **JHN M. CREWDSON**  
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WASHINGTON, July 17—The Federal Communications Commission asked the American Telephone and Telegraph Company today to investigate the reported violation of company tariffs by the White House in connection with recording devices placed on telephones used by President Nixon.

The F.C.C. action followed the disclosure yesterday by Alexander P. Butterfield, a former White House Aide, that recording equipment had been installed in the spring of 1971 on telephones used in the Oval Office at the White House and elsewhere.

Mr. Butterfield told the Senate Watergate committee that the President's callers were not cautioned by an audible signal that their conversations were being recorded, which, if true, would violate A.T.&T. Tariff No. 263.

That tariff provides that any

recording equipment used by telephone customers must include a device that emits an audible tone at 15-second intervals when the recorder is operating.

**Inquiry Asked**

Bernard Strassburg, chief of the F.C.C.'s Common Carrier Bureau, said in a telephone interview that he had asked A.T.&T. to establish whether the White House had violated its tariff by using equipment without a tone.

The penalty for a violation is the removal of telephone equipment leased to the offending customer.

In New York, a company official said that the matter had been referred to the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, its Washington-area affiliate, which provides service to the White House.

A spokesman for C. & P. said that a letter had been hand-delivered this afternoon to Bruce A. Kehrl, special assistant to President Nixon, who

is in charge of communications at the White House.

He said that the letter referred to reports of Mr. Butterfield's testimony in the press and "emphasized the great importance to the company that its tariffs be adhered to."

"We will await a reply, and any further action will depend on the response that we get [from the White House]," the spokesman said.

F.C.C. officials also disclosed the the agency, which regulates all domestic communications, had received a complaint late last year from California man whose conversation with a White House official had been recorded without his prior knowledge.

In a letter dated Jan. 5, 1973, G. H. Dillon, the White House accounts manager, replied in response to the complaint that "the White House is fully cognizant of and acts in accordance with applicable telephone company tariffs concerning the use of recording devices."