

See also "CIA Love Traps in [San Francisco] and in N.Y.," by Jack Anderson, SFC 5 Feb 75, filed CIA. FBI - II

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Reports of Bugs

## In Bawdy Houses

### New York

Electronic listening devices were planted in two Washington area houses of prostitution by the FBI in the mid-1960s to obtain tape recordings of foreign diplomats, Newsweek magazine reported yesterday.

The magazine quoted what it called a highly placed source, who said "there was a national security rationale" behind the alleged bugging. "The bureau hoped to obtain tapes of foreign diplomats in compromising situations, to be used possibly in blackmailing them into working for the U.S.," the source said.

Newsweek said the bugs picked up congressmen and other important Americans. Information from them was passed on by then FBI

Director J. Edgar Hoover to President Lyndon Johnson, who, the magazine said, "enjoyed placing a stack of FBI dossiers conspicuously on his desk while subjecting vulnerable congressmen to some political arm-twisting."

The magazine also reported that a former government official said the FBI tried to discredit several new left leaders in California in the late 1960s. The unidentified official was quoted by Newsweek as saying that the bureau hired a prostitute with venereal disease to seduce the leaders "in the naive belief that contracting VD would discredit them with potential campus followers."

The magazine said she purportedly "met with at least some success."

United Press