

Oval Office 'Bug,' 1070 – WXP, AP and UPI report on an article by Tad Szulc, written For July Issue of Penthouse magazine. The account by WXP begins. "Penthouse Magazine said [today] ..." which suggest these reports are based on an advance authorized by the magazine.

Szulc's article says a sophisticated laser beam transmitter, hidden in a wall of the Oval Office and concealed beneath a coat of fresh paint, was uncovered in early Aug. 70. The device was "apparently controlled by one of the intelligence agencies," and was installed by a foreign-born painter employed by the government, whose name is known to Szulc. "Szulc said ... the device ... unlike a tape system, could identify every individual voice in the room as well as several separate simultaneous conversations, including those made over 'secure' scrambler lines." The operation was code-named "Easy Chair."

Most of the preceding was taken from WXP's August, 1970" AP, 'for several months in 1970," UPI, "for several months in 1970 [and] was discovered and removed in early august 1970." The use of the phrase "for several months" suggests there was some knowledge of the time the bug was in place.

Nixon, at press conference 22 Aug 73, said that after he had the "taping capacity" dismantled when he took office, it was 'Put into place again in June 6, 1970." For correction of the year to 1971, see entry 13 July 73, p. 23, Misc. notes on Butterfield who made the same error.

WXP21 Apr. 75, Austin Scott
NYT 21 Apr. 75, [UPI]
SFC 21 Apr. 75, [AP]