

Office Bugged, Dellums Says

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Washington

Ronald V. Dellums said yesterday that someone had placed an electronic bug in his Berkeley congressional office and he assumes his Capitol Hill office is bugged as well.

Dellums made the disclosure during a House Intelligence Committee hearing at which former law enforcement officers and wiretap experts said illegal bugging is widespread in the United States.

The Democrat said electronic experts conducted a "sweep" of his Berkeley office in 1972 and found a high frequency radio electronic surveillance device was monitoring his telephone calls.

Dellums was an opponent of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war and is leading civil rights advocate as a member of the congressional Black Caucus.

He said he felt "totally helpless" to prevent a bug from being installed in his Berkeley or Washington offices.

"I operate under the assumption that it is there now," he said.

Dellums asked James Kraus, chief of the FBI's antitrust and bankruptcy unit whether any special relationship exists between the FBI and the telephone companies. He noted that witnesses had testified that about 40 former FBI agents or policemen worked for the Southwestern Bell system.

"There seems to be some relationship which is more than casual which would allow the FBI to make taps and to allow electronic surveillance," Dellums said.

"I'm not aware of any relationship," Kraus replied.

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