

# U.S. Probing Illegal D.C. Police Spying

## Washington

The U.S. attorney's office is investigating allegations of illegal spying by District of Columbia police and is trying to determine whether top police or FBI officials were aware of it, the Washington Post said yesterday.

The Post quoted sources familiar with the investigation as saying the prosecutors have been told by former law enforcement officers and police informants that some of the information gathered by District of Columbia police on anti-war groups between 1968 and 1972 was shared with the Secret Service and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The alleged bugging occurred with "some frequency" at the height of anti-war organizing in Washington and increased at the time of major protest demonstrations, sources told the Post.

The Post's sources said the CIA allegedly provided at least one of the bugging devices and other technical assistance.

"Some of the (undercover) agents were told to get information," one law enforcement officer involved in the investigation told the Post. "They got it the best way they could."

Two officials of law enforce-

ment agencies blamed any illegal electronic surveillance on officers newly hired for undercover work, the Post said.

The statute of limitations would bar prosecution now for illegal wiretapping that occurred before 1970. But illegally obtained information might have been used in criminal prosecutions, and disclosure of that now could result in reversals of convictions or civil suits charging government misconduct, the Post said.

U.S. Attorney Earl Silbert said Saturday he could not comment on the probe.

The Post said the FBI, CIA and Secret Service also have been informed of the investigation as well as the Justice Department and the Senate Select Committee chaired by Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho), both of which are probing CIA activities.

The paper also said the Ford Administration dropped plans to make former Washington Police Chief Jerry Wilson head of the Drug Enforcement Administration because of the alleged spying.

The administration said it had dropped his nomination because of possible heavy opposition in the Senate because of his handling of the 1971 "May Day"

anti-war demonstrations and because of his advocacy of reduced penalties for marijuana possession.

However, the Post said it had determined there was no visible opposition in the Senate.

United Press