

[Fuller story filed Surv.]

Police Wiretaps Rose 37 Per Cent Last Year

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Washington

A new report to Congress on court-approved wiretapping by police has disclosed that the volume of eavesdropping rose by 37 per cent last year across the country, with the heaviest activity concentrated in New York and New Jersey.

Together, state prosecutors in New York and New Jersey accounted for 83 per cent of the wiretapping done

by state officials across the country.

Of 531 wiretap orders issued last year by state judges under the 1968 Omnibus Crime Control Act, 254 were granted to New York prosecutors, 187 to New Jersey officials, and 90 to officials in 11 other states.

Federal wiretaps were not so heavily concentrated in the New York and New Jersey area. Of 285 orders issued by federal judges, 47

were in New York, 37 in New Jersey and the remainder were concentrated in major cities where federal strike forces against organized crime have been active.

REPORT

The report, which was compiled by the administrative office of the U.S. courts and filed with Congress last Monday, has not yet been officially released, but copies began to circulate on Capitol Hill yesterday.

It disclosed that some New York judges are permitting devices to stay in operation for far longer periods than federal or state laws appear to anticipate.

While the statutes permit 30-day periods of surveillance, with 30-day extensions under certain circumstances, state judge John P. Cohalan Jr. let the district attorney's office in New York's Suffolk county wiretap two residences there for most of last year.

Elsewhere in the nation, a wiretap that stayed in effect for more than 20 days was rare, according to the report. *N.Y. Times Service*