

Report of Nixon Bug on His Brother

By Bob Woodward and
Carl Bernstein
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Acting on direct orders from President Nixon, the Secret Service wiretapped the telephone of the President's brother, businessman F. Donald Nixon, for more than year, according to four highly reliable sources.

The President ordered his brother wiretapped during Mr. Nixon's first term because he feared that Donald Nixon's various financial activities might bring embarrassment to the administration, the sources said.

Wiretapping apparently was the only means by which the President felt confident of monitoring what his brother was doing, according to the sources, who include government investigators and a Nixon administration official.

HUGHES

President Nixon's decision to have his brother placed under electronic surveillance was partly based on concern about Donald Nixon's involvement with the financial empire of billionaire Howard Hughes, according to one of the sources.

The wiretap on Donald Nixon was only one of several conducted by the Secret Service on orders from either the President or White House aides who said they were acting in the President's behalf, according to two of the sources. The names of the other persons wiretapped and the reasons

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for the surveillance could not be learned.

The wiretaps were handled by the Secret Service's technical security division, the same unit that also installed and maintained the elaborate, secret taping system which President Nixon used to automatically record all conversations in his offices and on his telephones.

A spokesman for the Secret Service, Jack Warner, said the Secret Service would not comment on the matter. Donald Nixon was reported out of the country and not available for comment.

SECURITY

The Nixon tap, as well as some or all of the other electronic surveillance conducted by the Secret Service, was apparently unrelated to national security, according to the sources. Unless there was some legitimate national security justification for the taps, the sources said, they would appear to be illegal.

The President has defended his authorization of 17 other wiretaps — on administration officials and news reporters — as legal, because they were purportedly undertaken to stop news leak that the President deemed were harmful to national security. However, two of those 17 taps were on the telephones of White House aides who have said they had no access to classified material affecting national security.

The tap on Donald Nixon, and others conducted by the Secret Service, were not among the 17 taps disclosed earlier this year, according to sources. Those 17, which the President has acknowledged ordering, were conducted by the FBI.

RULING

Until the Supreme Court ordered otherwise, the Nixon administration had asserted its self-proclaimed authority to conduct wiretapping without a court order in matters affecting the national security.

Nixon

(Other clippings on this
filed Watergate.)

On June 19, 1972, the Supreme Court ruled that such wiretaps involving "domestic" threats to the national security were illegal. The court left open the question of the legality of taps related to "foreign" security threats.

Donald Nixon, 58, received widespread public attention in 1960 when it was disclosed that he had received a \$205,000 loan from Hughes in 1956 to rescue Nixon's Inc., a chain of restaurants Donald Nixon operated in Southern California.

Despite the loan, Donald Nixon filed for bankruptcy in 1961, leaving \$206,000 in debts. The Hughes loan was never repaid.

JOBS

From 1963 to 1968 Donald Nixon was associated with a Southern California marketing consulting firm. In 1970 he became a vice president of the Marriott Corp., whose president, J. Willard Marriott, is a close friend of the President and a major Republican campaign contributor.

In the past five years there have been periodic news reports referring to attempts to keep Donald Nixon out of trouble by John D. Ehrlichman, the President's former domestic affairs adviser, and Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, the President's close personal friend.

In a Feb. 1, 1971, White House memorandum obtained by the Washington Post last month, John J. Caulfield, who conducted secret investigations for the White House, referred to Donald Nixon and the Hughes financial interests.

The memo, addressed to former presidential counsel John W. Dean III, said that "Don Nixon had visited the Dominican Republic with a small group of wheeler-dealers in September, 1969, who assertedly were connected with" enterprises owned by Howard Hughes, the reclusive billionaire who in the 1960s moved many of his business interests to Las Vegas.