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Merry-Go-Round**Secret Wiretap
Of Governors' Offices****Jack Anderson**

THE MOST CONFIDENTIAL conversations of the nation's governors can be overheard at any point along an emergency telephone system that links their private offices with Civil Defense headquarters.

It has just been discovered that the red emergency telephone in most governors' offices have been transformed into secret listening devices. The microphone in each receiver will pick up conversations in the room when the phone is on the hook.

I personally listened to a conversation that an electronics expert, using simple wiretap tools, easily picked up in the office of Maryland's Governor Marvin Mandel. The conversation was transmitted through the emergency telephone under the governor's desk.

An estimated 30 governors have similar phones that have been rigged for eavesdropping. These insidious phones connect into a hotline, which enables Civil Defense to have instant communications with the governors in a national crisis.

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THE EMERGENCY PHONES were installed about 15 years ago as part of a secret network whose main terminal is located in Colorado Springs. The network links most governors.

The identity of the listeners is unknown. Some think it must be the FBI, others say the CIA is the most likely culprit.

Governor Mandel was the first to discover his emergency phone was bugged.

He said his predecessor, Spiro Agnew, had discovered a hidden mike in the gov-

ernor's office before moving up to the vice presidency. As a result, Mandel began checking the office regularly for mikes and wiretaps after he moved in.

The red emergency phone had been ignored, but last month, a new electronics expert insisted upon checking it and demonstrated how the emergency phone functioned as a secret transmitter.

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OUTRAGED he called in the telephone people and made other confidential inquiries. He said the telephone officials not only acknowledged that his special phones was bugged but said all emergency phones were wired the same way. This would mean all the governors on the hotline had bugged phones, they told him.

Mandel ordered the microphone removed from his emergency phone. He said the phone had never rung during his 22 months as governor and probably hadn't been used since it was installed. But the day after he removed the microphone, the phone rang.

He happened to be out of the office, but his personal secretary confirmed that there had been six short, sharp rings on the emergency phone. Since only the governor is supposed to answer the hotline, she didn't pick up the phone.

This country may be closer to George Orwell's concept of 1984 than the public realizes. Orwell described an advanced police state whose citizens couldn't make a move without Big Brother knowing it. There is increasing evidence that our federal uncle has been developing a Big Brother complex.

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