

Klein Denies Phone Tap of Governors

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Presidential aide Herbert G. Klein yesterday night labelled "ridiculous" a report that civil defense telephones of 30 Governors are bugged with eavesdropping devices.

In his syndicated column today (Page 38), Jack Anderson wrote the direct line telephones linking governors' offices with civil defense control centers in Washington and Denver were bugged.

Confronted by the charge at a speech he made at Johns Hopkins University, Klein said: "A charge like that sounds ridiculous to me."

"There is no truth to that. I'd be aware of it if it were true," Klein, director of communications for President Nixon, said.

The Anderson column said a routine security check in the office of Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel located the electronic device in his red civil defense phone. The governor's office in Annapolis refused to confirm or deny the report yesterday, but the governor did call a news conference for today to discuss the matter.

Anderson reported Mandel ordered the device removed from his telephone and notified a neighboring governor, who also found that his civil defense phone was bugged. The other governor was identified as Russell Peterson of Delaware.

The Anderson column says about 15 years ago as part of the civil defense system.

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