

Hot Line Bugs

Governor Phone Taps Confirmed

ANNAPOLIS — (AP) — A source close to Maryland Gov. Marvin Mandel confirmed today that the governor's "hot line" telephone linking his office with those of other state governors and national Civil Defense headquarters is wired to permit eavesdropping on Mandel himself.

The hot line phone of Delaware's Gov. Russell W. Peterson is reported similarly wired.

The phones were installed 14 years ago.

The source in Mandel's office said the wiring in the hot line phone indicated it had been done at the factory when the telephone was produced and not at a later date after it was installed.

Blamed on "Error"

Telephone company officials have denied that there is any way eavesdropping could have occurred on Mandel's phone or any other and have attributed the wiring to an "error."

The telephones were installed to give state executives quick access to Civil Defense officials in the event of an impending attack or natural disaster, a Pentagon spokesman said.

The governor's aide did not say what would be done about the wiring or whether the same situation existed in telephone equipment of other governors.

A report on the wiring appeared in the Baltimore Sunpapers.

When the receiver is on the hook, the wiring allows the

Inspection Bars Tap On Reagan

SACRAMENTO — (AP) — Governor Reagan's phone lines are inspected to prevent wiretaps such as those that "bugged" some key officials in the East, a Reagan aide reported today.

"The telephone company makes periodic inspections," said William A. Strobel, a Reagan press aide.

He said the inspections are designed as security precautions to assure against wiretaps or "bugs."

mouthpiece to pick up conversations in the room, the Sunpapers said.

The Pentagon spokesman said the Department of Defense and the White House could be patched into the network — in effect could hear conversations in offices with "hot line" phones wired in such a manner.

At the White House, presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler was asked about the subject and acknowledged that the White House "did have some interest in finding out what the facts were."

However, he said the phone lines had no direct link to the White House and declared, "That's a matter we wouldn't address from here."

Although telephones in the offices of Mandel and Peterson were named as two locations for such wiring, another East Coast governor said his "hot line" phone disconnected when it was hung up.

No Jersey Bugging

Gov. William T. Cahill of New Jersey said a Civil Defense check of his phone revealed no "bugging," the Sun said.

In Georgia, state officials ordered an immediate check of Gov. Lester Maddox's phone. The inspection showed no evidence of a bugging device, they said, but the governor was described as "hopping mad."

"We've checked the office every so often, sometimes a couple of times a week, but never even thought about including that telephone," one Annapolis official said.

"You'll be hearing a lot more about this soon," he said.

Called 'Big Hoax'

"The thing is a big hoax and it has been blown out of proportion," said Pete White, staff supervisor for the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co.

Maddox said that if he finds the government has placed a listening device on the phone, "I will snatch it off the walls first thing tomorrow. I'll tear out the wires myself."

"If this is true, we are living in a Russian-type police state," Maddox declared.