From ad for The New Yorker - excerpts from article by Richard Harris, "The New Justice".

"The most common communications carriers, of course, are telephone companies. For many years, they were reluctant to assist agents who wanted to place wiretaps, because that would have betrayed customers and subjected the companies to highly unfavorable publicity; moreover, the procedure was costly and time-consuming, and it was awkward to accept payment either openly or covertly.

Now, however, all the repairmen and installation men working for telephone companies must, under federal law, place wiretaps on request - not in the District of Columbia alone but throughout the country."