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Bella's Telephones Said to Be Tapped

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Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.) said yesterday a private investigation firm had concluded her office phone lines likely had been wiretapped.

Mrs. Abzug said the firm found no listening devices on her phone or in the room, but while testing one line an investigator heard a voice say, "Bob, they're dialing a Washington number. Start monitoring."

Mrs. Abzug said in a letter to House Speaker Carl Albert that she and staff members and other associates had also heard voices on the line. She asked Albert to conduct an investigation.

The private firm, Investigations, Inc., of Alexandria, was called in, Mrs. Abzug said, after an incident at about 11 p.m., Oct. 5. She said she was talking by phone with Albert Blumenthal, deputy minority leader of the New York State Assembly, when "we both

heard a voice on the line say, 'Keep the tape going. I want to get all of this.'"

After the investigator and a telephone company inspector were unable to find a tap on the phone or a device in the office rooms, the investigator concluded her phone was "tapped from an unknown outside location by a person or persons using sophisticated electronic equipment and who should be considered professional political spies."

She said the investigative report also concluded that "due to the extremely complex network of telephone lines and terminal locations for Capitol Hill telephones, it is also my considered opinion the person or persons responsible for this tapping are familiar with, or being assisted by a knowledgeable person, or have access to the various telephone network plans for Capitol Hill telephones."