

MAY 4 1972  
**2 Times Newsmen  
Reported Targets  
Of '71 Phone Taps**  
NYTimes

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 2—The Washington Post said Wednesday night that according to two highly placed Administration sources, the telephones of two reporters for The New York Times were tapped in 1971 as part of an investigation ordered by President Nixon into leaks of the Pentagon papers. The papers had been obtained by The Times.

The wiretaps were supervised by E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, the Watergate conspirators, who were then working in the White House, The Post said one source had disclosed.

Further, The Post said this source had said that the taps were authorized by John N. Mitchell, then Attorney General.

The names of the reporters were not disclosed.

"In this electronic surveillance, according to the source, Hunt and Liddy supervised an independent team, or so-called

'vigilante squad,' of wiretappers not employed by the F.B.I.—the agency that normally performs legal wiretapping," The Post said.

"According to The Post's sources, the wiretapping connected with the Pentagon papers followed earlier White House-ordered taps of other reporters to discover the sources of leaks of information about the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT) to the news media," The Post continued.

"In addition, during the first Nixon Administration, the office or home telephones of at least 10 White House staff members also were tapped in the course of investigations into new leaks, the sources said," the newspaper said.

According to The Post, one of the sources also said that in late 1971 or early 1972 "it was decided at a Nixon campaign strategy meeting that some members of the same vigilante squad responsible for the Pentagon papers wiretapping would be used to wiretap the telephones of Democratic Presidential candidates."

The Post quoted its sources as saying that the wiretapping began shortly after The Times began publication of the Pentagon papers.