

Tap Reportedly Put On Kopechne Phone After the Drowning

NYTimes JUL 7 1973

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 6—Soon after Mary Jo Kopechne drowned in Senator Edward M. Kennedy's car on Chappaquiddick Island on July 18, 1969, an illegal wiretap was placed on the phone in the Georgetown house where she had lived with three other girls, according to a source close to the Senate Watergate investigating committee.

The wiretap, this source asserted, was installed either by or under the direction of John J. Caulfield and Anthony T. Ulasewicz, two former New York policemen who began working for the White House in early 1969.

In his testimony before the Watergate committee in May, Mr. Caulfield said that in the first three years of his White House assignment, Mr. Ulasewicz, "first on orders from Mr. [John D.] Ehrlichman and later, in some instances, on orders from Mr. John Dean [former White House counsel], under my supervision, performed a variety of investigative functions."

Miss Kopechne drowned when the car in which she was riding

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ing with Senator Kennedy plunged off a narrow wooden bridge over a tidal creek about midnight. After a day of sailing, they had attended a cook-out with friends and employees of the Senator's at a cottage on Chappaquiddick, which is off Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard.

Miss Kopechne, who had worked in the office of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was employed at the time by Matthew Reese Associates, a political consulting firm.

She lived with three other girls at 2912 Olive Street in the Georgetown section of Washington. Her housemates were Margaret Carroll, an editor for The National Journal; Nance Lyons, who was on Senator Kennedy's staff, and Carol Littlejohn, an employe of the Office of Education in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In his opening statement before the committee on June 25, Mr. Dean testified that Mr. Caulfield and Mr. Ulasewicz, on orders of Mr. Ehrlichman, former domestic adviser to President Nixon, tapped the phone of Joseph Kraft, a columnist, "in late 1969 or early 1970."

Joined 'Plumbers' Unit

In the summer of 1971, after the publication of the Pentagon papers, Mr. Caulfield and Mr. Ulasewicz became a part of the "Plumbers" security unit set up at the direction of President Nixon to investigate leaks. The unit was headed by Egil Krogh Jr., a former assistant to Mr. Ehrlichman, and David R. Young Jr., a former aide to Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security affairs.

In an interview today, Miss Carroll, on being told that investigators for the committee had learned that the phone had been tapped, said that she had suspected it had been. She said that she had based her suspi-

cions on two things that happened soon after the accident.

First, she said, voice of people to whom she and her housemates talked on the phone "faded," as if the power was being drained, and there were strange "clicks" and "whir-rings."

Second, she said, for several weeks after the accident a small unmarked delivery truck was parked in the street near the house, and sometimes there were two such trucks.

When, much later, she spoke about this to a person who had a knowledge of surveillance techniques, Miss Carroll said, she was told that if a transmitter had been placed inside the phone, it would have received its power from the telephone circuit, and there would be a fading of voices.

Weak Signal Expected

Furthermore, this expert said, the signal would be so weak that receiving equipment would have to be located nearby. Such equipment could have been in the truck, this expert said.

In the Watergate bugging, a transmitter was installed in the telephone, and the receiving equipment was across the street in the Howard Johnson Hotel.

A New York Times dispatch on June 6 said that Mr. Caulfield "knows of at least one other wiretap [besides that on Mr. Kraft's phone] that was installed on Mr. Ehrlichman's orders outside the normal F.B.I. channels."

The source connected with the Watergate committee confirmed today that this other tap had been on the Olive Street house, but he did not say what kind of tap had been installed or mention the truck. Nor did he say whether Mr. Ulasewicz or somebody who worked with him had placed the tap.

In his testimony on June 25, Mr. Dean said:

"Mr. Caulfield told me that within six hours of the accident . . . he had a friend named Tony on the scene, who remained on the scene conducting a private investigation of the matter and reporting pertinent information back to him . . . Caulfield told me that Mr. Ulasewicz posed as a newspaper reporter and always asked the most embarrassing questions at any press gathering related to the Chappaquiddick incident."

If this amount is correct, it would suggest that Mr. Ulasewicz went directly to Edgartown.

Miss Carroll said that on the afternoon following the accident, reporters and TV cameramen streamed through the house and used the phone. But she rather doubted that, with the house so crowded, anyone could have installed a device in the phone. There were many times in the next few days when no one was at home, she said.

Cartha D. DeLoach, former deputy director of the F.B.I., said in a telephone interview that he knew of no authorized tap on the girls' phone.

And Richard D. Kleindienst, former Attorney General who was Deputy Attorney General at the time, said in another telephone interview that if a

tap had been placed on the phone, it would have been "illegal" and the persons placing it, if known, should be prosecuted.

The Watergate committee is expected to question Mr. Ulasewicz about the tap when he is recalled next week.

Mr. Dean also testified that during the summer of 1969, Mr. Kleindienst "called me into his office and told me that the White House wanted some very important information."

"Mr. Kleindienst instructed me," he said, "to call Mr. DeLoach . . . and obtain from him information on the foreign travels of Mary Jo Kopechne. I was told that Mr. DeLoach would be expecting a call from me, and once I had the information in hand, I was to give it to Jack Caulfield at the White House."

In response to inquiries about this, Mr. DeLoach said, "I recall nothing about any foreign travels of Miss Kopechne. Mr. Dean most certainly never called me."

Mr. Kleindienst said, "I have absolutely no recollection of such a call [to Mr. Dean]. I never had any curiosity about the foreign travels of Miss Kopechne."