

# Some Are Shocked, Some Unconcerned by

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## MEANY JUDGES IT HARD TO BELIEVE

But Wallace, Goldwater and  
Scott Are Not Upset—  
Hickel Is Surprised

WASHINGTON, July 16—Reactions ranging from shock to "So what?" greeted the disclosure today that conversations with President Nixon had been bugged as a matter of White House Routine.

A spokesman for George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, quoted Mr. Meany, for example, as saying:

"God bless the blunderers at the Watergate. If they hadn't been so clumsy, America would never have known this was going on."

The spokesman said that Mr. Meany found it "almost beyond belief" that Mr. Nixon's White House conversations had been secretly taped. The labor leader did not have "the slightest idea" that his chats with the President were being preserved for posterity on tape, the spokesman said.

### Wallace Not Concerned

Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama was also unaware of the practice, according to Billy Jo Camp, his press secretary, but Mr. Camp said: "I'm certain that the Governor would not object to anything [that was said] being made public."

He said that Mr. Wallace and the President had had four telephone conversations. Two of these took place while Mr. Wallace was hospitalized, recuperating from the gunshot wounds that have left him partially paralyzed, and two others since then.

One of these concerned Mr. Wallace's selection as chairman of the Southern Governors Conference, and the other, his plans for a state dinner to welcome returning prisoners of war, Mr. Camp said.

The Nixon Administration's highest-ranking dissident, former Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel, issued a statement from his Anchorage, Alaska, office, saying that he had had "absolutely no idea" of what had been happening.

"I'm shocked, the American people will be sick at heart to hear about it," Mr. Hickepsaid. "The fear of being bugged never bothered me—my problem was the reverse, getting the White House to listen."

The Senate minority leader, Hugh Scott, was unruffled by the news. The Pennsylvania Republican's statement said: "I only could assume that a record was kept of my conversations, and I only can assume some sort of a record was kept of conversations in past Administrations."

Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, according to his press secretary, "did not feel it was inappropriate to record for historical purposes." The Senator added that he has a recording device in his office that is very seldom used, "and when I do I always inform the other party," his statement said.

### McGovern Sees Violation

The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, refused to comment on the disclosure beyond saying that he was not aware of the presence of the recording devices.

Other Democrats were more outspoken, including Senator George McGovern, of South Dakota, who conceded that he had never visited or telephoned Mr. Nixon at the White House but said the practice was a "violation of privacy."

Senator John L. McClellan, Democrat of Arkansas, said he thought the person whose conversation was being recorded ought to have been informed, adding, "I'm not upset personally because of anything I have said."

Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, the former chairman of the Republican National Committee, who is noted for his sometimes cutting humor, said "I'm glad I always nodded" instead of saying anything, when talking with the President.

# Report on Taping of Nixon Conversations