

NYTimes JUL 19 1973
**Kennedy Administration Aides
Unaware of Recorded Meetings**

By JOHN KIFNER

Special to The New York Times

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., July 18 — Several high officials of the Kennedy Administration said today that they had no knowledge of the recordings of Presidential meetings or telephone calls, despite the announcement last night by the John F. Kennedy Library that it had discovered 68 Dictabelts of Presidential telephone calls and 125 magnetic tapes of Presidential meetings.

Dan H. Fenn Jr., director of the Library, said in a brief statement that "a cursory check" of the recordings appeared to indicate that they were concerned with national security affairs.

McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's national security adviser, said the announcement was "the first I knew" of any recordings of meetings.

'Very Private Decision'

"I know nothing about it," Mr. Bundy said, adding that he did not recall seeing any recording equipment at meetings he attended. He speculated that, if there was any taping of White House conversations, it was "a very private decision by President Kennedy."

Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., the historian and a Kennedy aide, described the idea of secret recordings during the Kennedy Administration as "absolutely inconceivable."

"It was not the sort of thing Kennedy would have done," Dr. Schlesinger told United Press International. "The kind of people in the White House then would not have thought of doing something like that."

He added, however, that "it is my impression there were occasions—a few critical meetings—where recordings were made," and suggested that the

negotiations in 1962 with then Gov. Ross Barnett of Mississippi over the integration of the University of Mississippi might have been recorded.

Lawrence F. O'Brien, the former Democratic national chairman and a key political operative under President Kennedy, said that he "never had any knowledge" of any recording during the Kennedy Ad-

ministration. He, too, said that he had "no recollection" of seeing any recording equipment during meetings.

Clark's Comments

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark told a Democratic breakfast meeting in New York that he was unaware of any "surreptitious taping" of White House conversations during either the Kennedy or the Johnson Administrations.

Taps Laid to Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, July 18 (UPI) — Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, military aide to President Truman, said today that President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered wiretaps placed on the home telephones of his closest aides.

General Vaughan, now living in retirement in Alexandria, Va., said he had never learned the purpose of the wiretaps and personally discarded a sheaf of wiretap transcripts when Mr. Truman became President after Roosevelt's death in April, 1945.

"A few days after Truman took office, someone presented me with a lot of notes on wiretaps they had in operation," General Vaughan said in an interview.

The 79-year-old general recalled being handed a stack of lettersize typescripts about three inches thick—"about two weeks' accumulation, I guess it was"—and said he laid it before Mr. Truman in his office.

"I didn't go into it," General Vaughan said. "I just skipped over two or three pages. It was a lot of trivia. He (Mr. Truman) said, 'I'm not interested; I don't have time for that foolishness; tell them to discontinue.'"

One of the top sheets he inspected happened to be a conversation of a wife making an appointment with her hairdresser, the former aide recalled.

General Vaughan said he simply threw the records into a wastebasket without inspecting them further and never learned why the taps were ordered.

He declined to speculate on the reason for the wiretaps, but said he assumed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the surveillance.

General Vaughan, who later became a central figure in a Truman Administration scandal over influence peddling, said Mr. Truman had no use for the "James Bond" type of activity being described in the Senate Watergate committee hearings.