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**Two in Nonsecurity Posts
Were on Wiretapping List**

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
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WASHINGTON, Aug. 30—
The wiretapping of Government officials, which has been defended by President Nixon as necessary to prevent disclosure to the press of his secret foreign policy initiatives, was directed in part at two Administration officials whose jobs did not bring them in contact with such classified national security information, according to sources familiar with the operation.

The sources said that among the 13 Government officials whose telephones were tapped between 1969 and 1971 were James W. McLane, then a staff member of the White House Domestic Council and now deputy director of the Cost of Living Council, and John P. Sears, a former law partner of Mr. Nixon's and then deputy White House counsel.

It was also disclosed that a tap was placed on a telephone used by Lieut. Gen. Robert E. Pursley during the period that he, as an Air Force colonel, was the top military assistant to then Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird. The name of General Pursley, who is now the commander of American forces in Japan, completes the list of the 13 officials, all of whose identities have now been disclosed.

President Nixon said on May 22 that he had authorized the wiretap effort to stop "leaks of secret information [about] a number of highly sensitive foreign policy initiatives" that he had undertaken and that were being compromised by news reports "obviously based on leaks."

Administration sources have said that the "initiatives" he referred to included the secret bombing of Cambodia in 1969 and details of the American negotiating position at the talks on strategic arms limitation with the Soviet Union.

The individuals whose telephones were monitored, Mr. Nixon said, were selected through a cooperative effort by Henry A. Kissinger, his adviser on national security affairs,

Continued on Page 6, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

John N. Mitchell, then Attorney General, and J. Edgar Hoover, the late director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Those wiretapped were selected on the basis of access to the information leaked, material in security files, and evidence that developed as the inquiry proceeded," the President said.

Mr. McLane, reached today by telephone at the Cost of Living Council, said that during his service in the Nixon Administration, he had known "absolutely nothing about national security," and could not explain why he had been a target of the surveillance program.

"Are you sure you've got the right guy?" he asked.

Before taking his present post, Mr. McLane served as executive assistant to Robert H. Finch, then Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and during the period in which his telephone was tapped, worked as head of the Domestic Council's Committee on Aging under John D. Ehrlichman, then President Nixon's chief domestic adviser.

After leaving H.E.W. in July, 1970, and before joining the Domestic Council in December of that year, Mr. McLane worked as deputy campaign manager for Francis W. Sargent, a Republican, who was elected Governor of Massachusetts in November, 1970.

Mr. Sears, a lawyer who left the President's old New York law firm to work in Mr. Nixon's 1968 campaign and who became his deputy counsel in January, 1969, could not be reached for comment today. However, former Administration officials said that the job of deputy counsel was not one in which Mr. Sears would have normally had access to the sort of information that the President has asserted the wiretap program was designed to protect.

A Pentagon spokesman declined to comment on the news that General Pursley's telephone had been tapped and said that the general, who is stationed near Tokyo, could not be reached.

Mr. Laird, with whom General Pursley worked closely at the Defense Department, said through an aide that he had known "absolutely nothing" about General Pursley or any of the others involved being placed under electronic surveillance. Mr. Laird is now an adviser to Mr. Nixon with offices in the White House.

The wiretapping effort has been criticized by William P.



John P. Sears, a former deputy counsel to President Nixon, whose telephone was tapped.

Rogers, the departing Secretary of State, and other Administration officials. Mr. Kissinger's role in it is expected to be the subject of questioning at Senate confirmation hearings on his nomination as Mr. Roger's replacement, which will begin next week.

Lists By Kissinger

Mr. Kissinger's associates have said that he did not actually designate those on whom wiretaps were placed, but that he drew up lists of individuals who had access to the secret information that was appearing in the press.

However, sources well informed about the operation said today that the names of the 13 officials and four newsmen had been selected either by Mr. Kissinger, at the time his deputy at the National Security Council and now chief of the White House staff.

Furthermore, the sources said reports from F.B.I. agents monitoring the wiretaps were sent directly to the President, Mr. Kissinger and, later H. R. Haldeman, the former Presidential chief of staff.

A White House spokesman said that he would have no comment on the matter, and an assistant to Mr. Kissinger also declined to comment.

The 17 wiretaps, which ranged in duration from three weeks to, in one case, 21 months, were directed by Mr. Mitchell, based on the Administration's interpretation of the 1968 Omnibus

Crime Control and Safe Streets Act holding that court orders were not needed for wiretaps in national security cases.

That interpretation was rejected in part by the Supreme Court last year, when it held that court orders were required in all wiretap cases except those in which the person involved had some demonstrable and substantial affiliation with a foreign power.

The policy of the Nixon Administration prior to that decision had been that the President had the power to authorize "warrantless electronic surveillance" under the omnibus crime law to protect the nation from either foreign or domestic threats to its security.