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# Big Brother Is Watching

Acting evidently on the theory that security begins at home, President Nixon seems to have had the telephone of his brother, F. Donald Nixon, systematically tapped for over a year. The President's press spokesman has explained that whatever bugging was done "would have related to the protective function of the Secret Service," but that agency spoiled the explanation by noting that Mr. Nixon's brother is not included in its protective obligations to the President's "immediate family."

The obvious surmise, then, is that the President simply wished to monitor the conversations of a brother whose activities have on occasion threatened the political security of his sibling in the White House. Understandable as it may be that Brother Richard should have wanted some such protection against the unpredictability of Brother Donald, that kind of service is hardly the function of the Secret Service.

It is perhaps naive of Senator Montoya to register shock on discovering that the Secret Service, over which his Appropriations subcommittee has jurisdiction, engages in wiretapping at all. But for that agency to direct its power to extracurricular purposes so political and personal in nature should be hard even for cynics to shrug off. After all, President Nixon's rank should not prejudice Citizen Donald Nixon's civil liberties. Is there a committee looking for a cause?