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**Douglas Says Johnson Told Him
His Own Telephone Was Tapped**

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 15 — Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court declared in an opinion today that he had once been told by Lyndon B. Johnson that the late President's telephone had been tapped, and Mr. Douglas voiced his own belief that "the conference room of this Court has been 'bugged.'"

The surprise disclosures were delivered without elaboration in an opinion attacking the Nixon Administration as "a regime where the 'dirty business' of wiretapping runs rampant."

The white-haired jurist, who will be 75 years old tomorrow, made his unusually strong remarks in a dissent from the Court's decision to deny the release on bail of a woman de-

fendant in a criminal case who maintained that her attorneys had been subjected to electronic surveillance by the Government.

The assertions by Justice Douglas were contained in a single sentence in his seven-page opinion. "I am indeed morally certain," it read, "that the conference room of this Court has been 'bugged,' and President Johnson during his term in the White House asserted to me that even his phone was tapped."

It was unclear whether Justice Douglas had understood Mr. Johnson to mean that his telephone had been monitored before he came to the White

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House or while he was President, and there was no indication of whom the President believed to have been responsible.

The Justice's office said that it had received a number of queries about his allegations, but that Justice Douglas would not be available today to respond to any of them.

However, one former high Government official with detailed knowledge of the operations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under J. Edgar Hoover, its late director, provided a few clues about the probable genesis of Mr. Douglas's remarks concerning President Johnson.

"Johnson periodically would indicate his suspicion that his phone had been tapped," the former official said, recalling that the matter came up several times in conversations between the President and Mr. Hoover.

"The truth of the matter," he continued, "is that we never did—God almighty, no. That suspicion was ill-founded. But some people get that idea into their heads and they just can't get it out."

The late President's concern, he went on, was not with whether he had been under surveillance while in the White House, but rather one of, "Did you have a wiretap on me when I was in the Senate?"

Mr. Johnson was first elected to the Senate from Texas in 1949, and became the Democratic leader there four years later, a post he held throughout the Republican Administration of President Eisenhower.

Asked at what point during his Presidency Mr. Johnson had raised the matter with Mr. Hoo-

ver, the former official replied that "the question surfaced most often in his mind during the Bobby Baker case."

Baker Case Recalled

Robert G. Baker, whom Mr. Johnson described as "my strong right arm," was secretary to the Senate Democrats when the late President served as majority leader. Baker was convicted in 1967 of tax evasion, theft and conspiracy after being charged with using his position to obtain money and favorable treatment for his outside business interests.

The former official went on to raise the possibility that Mr. Hoover might have told Mr. Johnson that his telephone had been tapped by an oppo-

sition Administration while he was a Senator even though it was untrue — something that would account for the remark that Mr. Douglas reported today.

The former official noted recent reports that President Nixon was told by Mr. Hoover shortly after taking office in 1969 that one of the airplanes he had used during his 1968 Presidential campaign had been bugged.

"That never happened," he said, "but it was an old trick of J. Edgar's—he liked to tell a man what he desperately wanted to hear, whether it was true or not."

As for the Supreme Court's conference room, the former official declared that "if we did

bug it, I wouldn't tell you, but the fact is we did not.

"Why would we run such an enormous risk? he asked, noting that advance information on how the Court planned to decide a case would be of no use to a President or Attorney General, who by that point would be able to do nothing to alter the Court's decision.

"If we were ever caught [at something like that]," he went on, "it would have wiped us out, Hoover and all."

Other sources familiar with the F.B.I. also dismissed Justice Douglas's accusations as implausible. "Hoover was a very tough, very wily guy," one said, "but he would not, God forbid, bug the Supreme Court and certainly not the President."