

ACLU Report on Public Got Clipped



Jack Anderson

THE DISCOVERY of a White House "enemies list" last June brought denials that the catalogued "enemies" had been marked for government harassment. The list was intended merely as a social guide, it was said, for issuing White House invitations.

The tut tuts from the White House, however, have now been exploded by the American Civil Liberties Union, which has been investigating what happened to those on the famous list. Probing questionnaires were sent to 189 "enemies" and answered by 95.

Although the final findings are still under lock and key in the office of project director Doug Leas, we have obtained a preliminary report.

★ ★ ★

THE Internal Revenue Service, despite all its denials, has pursued an unusual number of President Nixon's "enemies." Some 28 per cent of the replies reported tax audits, a far higher percentage than the national average for similar time periods and income brackets.

The tax victims included Senator Walter Mondale, (Dem.-Minn.), a potential Democratic presidential contender; Common Cause chairman John Gardner; New York Post editor James Wechsler; and United Auto Workers president Leonard Woodcock; to name a few.

Noted Mondale: "I have no knowledge, of course, whether the IRS audit was related to the fact that I was on that list." Gardner took the same attitude. "We are so completely open in operations," he said, "we have not given the matter fur-

ther thought."

Some 19 per cent reported their phones had been tapped, and another 12 per cent thought it likely. Among those who felt they were under electronic surveillance were Representative Ron Dellums, (Dem.-Calif.), and Representative Bella Abzug, (Dem.-N.Y.), both vigorous Nixon critics. Ms. Abzug, for example, heard a third voice cut in on a telephone conversation she was having with Assemblyman Al Blumenthal in 1972. She "called in a private investigator who confirmed that my phone was being tapped," she reported.

★ ★ ★

A FULL 23 per cent were subjected to federal investigations, other than tax probes, by the FBI or other agencies. Former Ambassador to India John Kenneth Galbraith reported one of his speeches had been monitored by "Army Intelligence agents." Representative Parren Mitchell (Dem.-Md.) was investigated by the FBI after he got copies of the Media, Pa., FBI files.

Smaller percentages reported burglaries (though unsure whether the government committed them), "punitive enforcement actions," mail interception, corporate contract problems and (in the case of some groups) infiltration by Nixon agents.

The ACLU tallies show the government came down hardest on blacks, newsmen, academic types and, more particularly, on "enemies" living in or near New York City, Washington and Boston — in other words, the "Eastern Establishment."