

Caulfield Talks About Wiretaps



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FORMER White House undercoverman John Caulfield has told Senate investigators about his role in wiretapping President Nixon's brother, Donald, and columnist Joseph Kraft.

These sensitive telephone taps were ordered by the President's right-hand man, John Ehrlichman, who apparently didn't trust the FBI to do the tapping "because it was a 'sieve.'"

The Secret Service not only tapped Donald Nixon's phone, according to a summary of Caulfield's closed-door testimony, but conducted "personal surveillance" of him.

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"**C**AULFIELD was to monitor this project to determine if it had any merit," states the summary. "Caulfield did not listen to any of the tapes resulting from the surveillance, but merely kept abreast of the information that was being reported by the Secret Service.

"This wiretap was placed when Donald Nixon was out in California, and Caulfield recalls receiving telephone calls from Secret Service contacts who would report that nothing was happening.

"After three weeks, Caulfield reported to Ehrlichman that there was nothing of value coming from the surveillance, and he recommended that it should be canceled. The surveillance was allegedly terminated following Caulfield's recommendation."

As the "action officer within the White

House on Nixon family problems," Ehrlichman also "gave Caulfield the assignment of tracking Donald Nixon Jr., when he got into some trouble in the Sierra Madre, California." Caulfield sent a private eye, Anthony Ulasewicz, to California "to investigate the situation and report it back to Ehrlichman."

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THE Joseph Kraft tap was ordered in June 1969. "Ehrlichman requested that Caulfield arrange the tap within the next 24 hours," states the summary. "Ehrlichman explained that he could not use the FBI because it was a 'sieve,' and therefore it was necessary for Caulfield to do this tap.

"After looking at the Georgetown neighborhood where Kraft lived, Caulfield went back to Ehrlichman to explain the serious difficulties inherent in placing a wiretap in that neighborhood. Ehrlichman again emphasized that the tap had to be done and so instructed Caulfield.

"About a week or ten days following the initial request from Ehrlichman, Caulfield was again called by Ehrlichman who said to cancel the wiretap because (the late FBI chief) J. Edgar Hoover would take care of it. Caulfield called an aide to call off the tap, and his aide told him 'it's done.'"

Caulfield testified that he later obtained the telephone tape from his aide and "destroyed it by placing it in one of the burn bags without ever telling Ehrlichman about this tape."