

# Wife on Most Tapped Calls

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More than one-fourth of the telephone calls intercepted on a so-called "national security" wiretap of a former National Security Council aide were between the aide and his wife, according to documents filed yesterday in U.S. District Court.

Morton Halperin said in the document that he had tabulated the number of domestic calls on his telephone during the 21 months the tap had been active by analyzing the summaries of those calls by the FBI. His wife was overheard on a total of 70 per cent of the conversations, he added.

Former President Richard M. Nixon has said he ordered the taps of Halperin and 16 other government officials and newsmen in 1967 as part of a program to halt suspected leaks of classified information.

Halperin filed a lawsuit that the tap was illegal and was secretly used

to gather political information. The tap remained on his home telephone for more than a year after he left the government, and while he was heavily involved in antiwar activities, according to other documents that have been made public.

Halperin said that of the 638 telephone calls summarized by the FBI for the 21 months of the tap, he personally had been overheard nearly 56 per cent of the time.

Twenty-seven per cent of the calls had been between him and his wife, Halperin said, and 28 per cent had been between him and persons who were not members of his family.

Halperin refused to identify nonfamily members who had been overheard, saying he felt it would be an invasion of their privacy to disclose their names. However, he said, many of the conversations were political in nature and involved the various positions

of elected government officials.

A total of 449 calls involved his wife, talking either to him or to other persons who were not the object of the surveillance, he added. There was a total of 36 conversations in which neither he nor anyone else in his family was a participant, he said.

Documents disclosed two weeks ago indicated that Mr. Nixon was aware of the personal and political nature of many of the conversations nine months before the taps were ended, and specifically ordered them to continue.

The former President also ordered the summaries of the conversations sent to his top political aide instead of his top national security aide, according to the same documents.

Halperin's attorneys are seeking to personally question Nixon about the decision to place the surveillance on Halperin and to continue the tap for the 21-month period.