

Nixon

Excerpts from depositions and other public statements by principal members of the Nixon administration provide subtly varied accounts of how the program got started, how those to be tapped were selected and who determined when the eavesdropping should be ended.

Here are the positions of Mr. Nixon, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, former presidential advisers H. R. (Bob) Halderman and John A. Ehrlichman, and former FBI deputy director Cartha D. DeLoach:

Mr. Nixon (in a deposition Jan. 15): "But he (then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover) said that in the case of four previous administrations that he had had the authority to wiretap . . .

"I of course did not select the names myself because I did not know. I told Dr. Kissinger that he should inform Mr. Hoover of any names that he considered to be prime suspects . . . That was Dr. Kissinger's responsibility. It was his responsibility not to control the program but solely to furnish the information to Mr. Hoover . . .

"Dr. Kissinger discussed the matter . . . with Mr. Hoover. My recollection is that they went back and forth, Hoover and Dr. Kissinger, as to who might be the individual or individuals who should be surveilled . . .

"Haig as Kissinger's deputy would furnish the names of individuals. And the responsibility thereafter was Mr. Hoover's to conduct a surveillance and furnish information to indicate those occasions when he felt that further surveil-

lance would be required of other individuals . . .

" . . . It was Dr. Kissinger's responsibility to furnish to the FBI the names of the individuals who under the guidelines might be possible prospects for leaking information . . . Needless to say, when . . . Dr. Kissinger had then reached a conclusion that they were no longer necessary, it would be his obligation to furnish that information to Mr. Hoover and Mr. Hoover would then take them off.

" . . . This is consistent with the way that I understood it and directed that the program be set up, that Dr. Kissinger should furnish the names and Mr. Hoover would institute the surveillances and furnish the fruits of or results of the surveillances to Dr. Kissinger's office and that they would be evaluated and Mr. Hoover, in addition of course, would recommend additional names if he felt it was necessary or advisable because of his own investigation.

Kissinger

Secretary Kissinger (in a sworn affidavit filed Jan. 13 in U.S. Dis-

trict Court): I was asked to supply the names of key individuals having access to sensitive information which had leaked. I was informed that the practice and procedures for such a wiretap program were well-established. There was some discussion of procedures and of candidates for electronic surveillance.

Director Hoover identified four persons as security risks and suggested that these four be put under surveillance initially. Three of these—Morton Halperin, (A), and (B)—were individuals who had been previously identified as representing potential security problems. The fourth was (C), whom Hoover claimed had connections with foreign intelligence services and had been tapped in previous administrations . . . It was my understanding that President Nixon directed surveillance of the persons then suggested by Director Hoover.

"The four individuals suggested by Mr. Hoover were Morton Halperin, (E), (F) and (G) . . .

"During the spring of 1970, it became clear to me that I was in no position to take any action with respect to the occasional wiretap summaries that I received. I pointed

out on a number of occasions to President Nixon that my office would serve best if it concentrated entirely on foreign policy matters and if internal security matters were handled elsewhere. Subsequently in May, 1970, I was informed by Mr. H. R. Haldeman that the President had decided that Mr. Haldeman would handle the White House involvement with the wiretap program in the future . . .

Haldeman

H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, in his deposition filed yesterday in U.S. District Court here:

" . . . I was aware that there were reports of wire tap findings coming. It was my understanding they were coming to Kissinger's office primarily . . .

(Kissinger and then-Col. Alexander Haig would show me) a particular report which would be on a leak they had found that so-and-so has been talking to so-and-so and that may well be how it was. X was talking to Y and that may well be how Y got the story or got that

part of the story that was supposedly secret material that appeared in such and such a paper today or was covered in such and such a broadcast.

Q. Do you remember whether any of those conversations related to Morton Halperin?

A. No.

Q. Do you remember that they did not relate to Morton Halperin?

A. No.

Ehrlichman

John D. Ehrlichman, responding to a question during his deposition about when he learned who had been taped:

"(Kissinger) nominated (Halperin) for that distinction as being singularly untrustworthy. Defects in his philosophy and character were generally described (by Kissinger)."

Hoover

Cartha D. DeLoach, a former top FBI official: "Dr. Kissinger was ordering, instructing the FBI and Director Hoover, and the White House was instructing the FBI to continue the investigations."