

Merry-Go-Round

**That Wiretapping,
Red-Faced FBI**



Drew Pearson

Today's column is by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

THE FBI, it has now been revealed, has been tapping the wires of the Dominican Embassy.

A foreign embassy in the United States is extraterritorial ground with privileges reserved to that country only. The United States may not intrude on embassy territory, even if murder is committed inside.

The state department therefore is very red-faced to find that the FBI placed taps on the wires of the Dominican embassy in 1961 shortly after the assassination of dictator Rafael Trujillo.

★ ★ ★

THIS WAS disclosed as a result of the Justice Department's prosecution of Bobby Baker, the former senate secretary, some of whose conversations were bugged and wire tapped. As a result of this FBI eavesdropping it may be that the Baker indictments will be thrown out of court.

The justice department, in admitting that some of Baker's conversations had been wire tapped and bugged, submitted conversations he had had with the Dominican embassy. He had placed several phone calls to the embassy around May 1961, usually speaking to the financial counselor Oscar Ginebha, about the pros-

pects of Joaquin Balaguer then provisional president, becoming permanent president.

Balaguer resumed the presidency this year after defeating leftwing candidate Juan Bosch in the post-revolution election. It won't help Dominican-American relations for Balaguer now to discover that his embassy phones were tapped the last time he headed the Dominican government.

★ ★ ★

IT ISN'T known how long the FBI continued to monitor the embassy's phones. However, FBI agents were listening in on the conversations of prominent Dominicans as late as this year.

The FBI tapped the phones of another Bobby Baker intimate, Jose Benitez, in Puerto Rico, while Juan Bosch lived in Benitez's apartment. The FBI wanted to know what Bosch was saying during the civil strife in the Dominican Republic. On one occasion he received a phone call from Santo Domingo reporting that one of the rebel leaders had been shot.

"See that he is shot in the back and then announce to the press that the Americans shot him," Bosch ordered over the phone.

(Copyright, 1966)

**Why FBI Bugged
Dominican Embassy**

Washington

The FBI has been eavesdropping on the Dominican Embassy in Washington with electronic devices ever since the 1950s, it was learned yesterday.

According to informed official sources, the eavesdropping has been an "off-and-on affair" and it was always undertaken in connection with a specific event that was deemed to involve the national security of the United States.

This information became known as a result of the six days of pre-trial hearings last month of Robert G. Baker, former secretary to the

senate democratic majority, who has been indicted on charges of tax evasion. His attorney has asked the indictment be dismissed on the ground that evidence submitted to the grand jury was illegally obtained by electronic eavesdropping.

Independent investigation disclosed that the impounded conversations of Baker had been with officials of the Dominican Embassy, and that they had been obtained through an FBI "bug" on the embassy.

Informed sources said it was "relatively rare" that the FBI would eavesdrop on an embassy.

New York Times