

# RFK Heard FBI Bugging Of Cosa Nostra

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WASHINGTON — Robert F. Kennedy, while he was Attorney General, listened in New York City to FBI "bugging" of conversations on the Cosa Nostra.

Sen. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) said Dec. 11 that "I was not aware of the bugging practices of the FBI during my term as Attorney General."

Kennedy also heard FBI bugging recordings in Chicago on organized crime while he headed the Justice Department.

## PART OF BRIEFING

The New York listening bee was part of a briefing by the FBI and reportedly took place Nov. 4, 1963.

The recorded conversations involved the Cosa Nostra "families," which got national publicity during the Senate hearings on underworld songbird Joseph Valachi in September and October, 1963.

The Chicago incident reportedly occurred March 19, 1963.

Kennedy, through a spokesman, said he did not remember the exact dates or

places, but recalled his former anti-racketeering section chief, William G. Hundkey, and his former press secretary, Edwin Guthman, were on hand both times.

## POLICE ACTION

Guthman and Kennedy's office both said the impression left by the FBI agents was that the tapes had been made by local police, not the FBI.

Guthman could not recall the words on which he based his impression.

The FBI referred all questions on the tape listening to material previously released by the bureau and by Rep. H. R. Gross (R-Iowa), whose correspondence with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover kicked off a row on whether Kennedy knew about FBI bugs.

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