

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Steven B. King
Committee for Re-election of the President

SUBJECT: Physical and Electronic Search of Specified Suites
Occupied by Members of the Committee.

During the nights of 14/15 and 15/16 July, 1972, a detailed physical and electronics search was made of certain specified suites and rooms at 1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., to detect any signs of electronic surveillance directed against your Committee.

The physical search revealed no indication of any attempts to introduce any electronic monitoring devices into the premises searched. There were no signs that the wall-to-wall carpeting had been tampered with. The woodwork was found to be in its original condition. A ceiling tile was found to have been replaced in Mr. Mardian's office and one was found to have been damaged in Mr. Sloan's office, but further examination failed to show any ulterior motives for these conditions. An examination of the shades of wall paint failed to show any indication of surreptitious re-painting of walls or portions of walls. Air vents and air conditioning ducts were examined in an effort to locate wired microphones, but no indications of such were found.

Whenever technically possible, all woodwork was examined with metal detectors. No indications of any unusual metal contents were found. Particular attention was paid to wooden tables and desks, which all checked out within allowable limits.

Two instances of electronic interference were found to exist: one in Mr. McGregor's office and one in Mr. Mardian's office. Both were subsequently found to be due to radios in the suites directly above, which had not been turned off for the night. Special attention was paid to Mr. Mardian's office in which a new ceiling tile had been placed directly above Mr. Mardian's swivel chair. Electronic examination of the area surrounding this particular tile failed to reveal anything suspicious.

A careful electronic sweeping was conducted of cardboard boxes and containers in the two conference rooms (the main one and the one adjoining Mr. Stans' office), but nothing suspicious was detected.

The various items suitable for hiding a transmitter/microphone were checked in all the offices (e.g., lamps with hollow bases, like the one in Mr. Malek's office, and the elephant in Mr. McGregor's conference room), but with negative results.

Telephone instruments were checked for unusual interference, and the only one found to be outside allowable limits was extension 305, which is located next to the sofa in Mr. Mitchell's office. This is the only instance in which serious suspicion was aroused. If agreeable with you, we should like to pursue this particular matter further with the aid of competent telephone company experts. Most of the telephones are connected with the trunk lines through an opening in the floor which is partially covered by carpeting. These openings were carefully checked electronically, but nothing suspicious was detected. However, they are unusually good places in which to hide a transmitter, and should therefore be filled up if at all possible.

In conclusion, allow us to make the following suggestions to further improve the security of your offices:

Empty your conference rooms of all items that are not strictly necessary. The main conference room as well as Mr. Stans' conference room have an inordinate amount of boxes and packages which, it would seem, could equally well be stored somewhere else. Such items lend themselves well as hiding places for microphones.

Ensure that all sensitive offices with windows to the street and to the back yard are equipped with heavy curtains that can be drawn when a sensitive discussion is in progress, or when the occupant of the office is working with important and/or sensitive papers. Electronic means are in existence that enable an eavesdropper to "read" a conversation through a window pane and, of course, a pair of binoculars will go a long way toward enabling a man to read a document from quite a distance.

Make arrangements to "sweep" bulky items that are brought into sensitive offices, such as the above-mentioned lamps with hollow bases. The same rule applies to ash trays with hollow bases, etc.

While we realize that some of your Committee members probably have a particular fondness for such items as flowers in large flower pots and artificial birds, such items nevertheless present a serious menace because they are so excellently suited to serve as hiding places for "bugs." Possibly such items could be dispensed with, or kept somewhere else for the sake of security.

In the case of offices adjoining sensitive committee offices, but not under direct committee control (such as the room directly adjoining Mr. McGregor's office, which we understand is unoccupied), an effort should be made to check them as frequently as possible.