



Exploding The Phone

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

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|-----------|---|
| Title | FBI File 139-HQ-0-2098: Unknown Subject, Possible Access to the White House Secure Telephone System, IOC |
| Date | 1977-05-20 |
| Author(s) | FBI |
| V/I/P | p. 1 |
| Abstract | Copy of several pages of 139-WF-262 (also in 139-HQ-4991) regarding Draper/McCloskey allegations of interception of White House communications. |
| Keywords | White House; John Draper; 139-HQ-4991; 139-WF-262; 139-HQ-0-2098 |
| Source | FBI via FOIA |

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

February 27, 2008

Subject: FILE NUMBER 139-0-2098

FOIPA No. 1105774- 000

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

- ☐ (b)(1)
- ☐ (b)(2)
- ☐ (b)(3) _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☒ (b)(6)

Section 552a

- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
- ☐ (b)(7)(B)
- ☒ (b)(7)(C)
- ☐ (b)(7)(D)
- ☐ (b)(7)(E)
- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
- ☐ (b)(8)
- ☐ (b)(9)
- ☐ (d)(5)
- ☐ (j)(2)
- ☐ (k)(1)
- ☐ (k)(2)
- ☐ (k)(3)
- ☐ (k)(4)
- ☐ (k)(5)
- ☐ (k)(6)
- ☐ (k)(7)

5 page(s) were reviewed and 5 page(s) are being released.

☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

- ☐ referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
- ☐ referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

☒ You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown, when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☐ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", followed by a stylized flourish or number "3".

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 5/20/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM: SAC, WFO (139-262)(C)

UNSUB;
 Possible Access to the
 White House Secure
 Telephone System
 ioc.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are the original plus five (5) copies and for San Francisco one (1) copy of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) captioned as above.

WFO indices reflected a reference to [REDACTED]

This information is in a WFO letter and LHM dated 8/29/72 to Acting Director (100-448910), titled Youth International Party (YIP) IS-REV ACB (OO:NY). The LHM contains information regarding a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who purportedly was under indictment for "Fraud by Wire."

UACB, WFO will conduct no active investigation. WFO not submitting a copy of the GAO report to the Bureau inasmuch as a copy has previously been mailed by GAO.

REC-105

2 - crim (0-6A)

1 - Rm. 516

5/26/77

1 - D&D

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)

1 - San Francisco (Enc. 1)(Info)

1 - WFO

DPH:nas
 (4)

JUN 6 1977

1 - file (one) copy in
 139-4999

MAY 25 1977

UNREC COPY AND COPY OF ENCL FILED IN 139-4999

b6
b7C



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20535

May 20, 1977

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
POSSIBLE ACCESS TO THE
WHITE HOUSE SECURE TELEPHONE SYSTEM
INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

On May 11, 1977, the following item appeared in
"The White House News Summary":

"ABC Good Morning America Jack Anderson reported that a constituent of Rep. Pete McCloskey (R-Cal) has developed a "blue box" which enables him to tap into secured White House telephone lines. McCloskey agreed to test his constituent's device, and, after dialing the proper sequence of numbers, found he was talking on a confidential White House phone line, Anderson said."

On May 12, 1977, William Johnson, Press Aide and Legislative Assistant to United States Representative McCloskey, was interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the results of that interview follow:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



139-0-2098

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/20/77

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WILLIAM JOHNSON, Press Aide and Legislative Assistant to United States Representative PAUL MC CLOSKEY (California), 2469 Rayburn, was contacted concerning an article in "The White House News Summary," May 11, 1977, regarding a "blue box." He was advised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) interest in matters concerning the Interception of Communication Statute. He provided the following information:

During a constituent meeting in California (date not provided), a constituent provided Congressman MC CLOSKEY with a memorandum titled "New Techniques of Tapping Phones and Access to Computers." He spoke briefly to the Congressman and told him he had been prosecuted for using a "blue box" and the Congressman believed the man to be awaiting sentencing. The constituent wanted the Congressman to be aware of the easy access to various items.

The memo included a statement that "... the special Hot Line to the President is 800-424-9337," and "Phone freaks have been able to penetrate this system and talk to key government personnel and the President."

In order to verify this information, the Congressman's California staff telephoned the 800 number which was answered by White House Staff. They would not answer any questions and referred them to White House Communications. Congressman MC CLOSKEY's staff spoke with Lieutenant Colonel ED NELSON, United States Army, Operations Officer for White House Communications. NELSON advised that the above number is a number that the White House Staff uses when traveling. It is not a secure telephone line. According to Mr. JOHNSON, NELSON indicated they have received several crank calls over the years and are considering having the number changed.

As a result of the memorandum, Congressman MC CLOSKEY called GAO and requested an investigation. GAO has since written a report titled "Vulnerability of Telecommunications Systems to Unauthorized Use," March 31, 1977.

Interviewed on 5/12/77 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 139-262

by SA [redacted] nas Date dictated 5/12/77

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b7C

WFO 139-262

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The GAO report is a public document, however, JACK ANDERSON is quoting it as classified according to Mr. JOHNSON. An associate of JACK ANDERSON called Congressman MC CLOSKEY's office for a copy of the report.

The identity of the above constituent was requested and Mr. JOHNSON stated that it was the policy of the Congressman's office not to reveal the identity of a constituent when information of this nature is provided.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/20/771

[redacted] Logistics and Communications, Government Accounting Office (GAO), 44 G Street, N.W., was interviewed and provided the following information:

Congressman PAUL N. MC CLOSKEY sent a letter to GAO dated September 17, 1976, concerning vulnerabilities of telecommunications systems. Attached to the letter was a communication prepared by a constituent of Representative MC CLOSKEY. [redacted] allowed the interviewing agent to read the letter and attachment but would not provide a copy. The information in the attachment was written by [redacted] stated [redacted] was also known as [redacted] was supposedly serving time in jail for use of a "blue box." [redacted] set out the ease with which access could be gained to various telecommunications systems.

[redacted] indicated in the letter that he could be contacted "via [redacted]"

[redacted] provided a copy of GAO report LCD-77-102 titled "Vulnerabilities of Telecommunications Systems to Unauthorized Use," which was based upon Mr. MC CLOSKEY's letter of September 17, 1976.

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[redacted] had previously mailed a copy of the GAO report to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Headquarters.

Interviewed on 5/12/77 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 139-262

by SA [redacted] nas Date dictated 5/13/77