

Conversation Number 746-16  
July 1, 1972, 11:28-11:36 A.M.  
Oval Office  
President and Colson

[Colson is in the Oval Office as the president continues his fascination with the wiretapping of himself and others. The conversation transcribed below originally began at 0:13:48.0.]

**PRESIDENT:** I don't want an impression of the big brother thing, the White House and the president ordering buggings and snooping. But God damn Kennedy did it all the time. Bobby Kennedy had a record number of these bugs.

**COLSON:** Well, you saw Kevin Phillips? Did you see Kevin Phillips's column this week?

**PRESIDENT:** No. What did he say?

**COLSON:** How they bugged [Anna] Chennault's telephones in '68.

**PRESIDENT:** Oh, in '68 they bugged our phones, too.

**COLSON:** And that this was ordered by Johnson.

**PRESIDENT:** That's right.

**COLSON:** And done through the FBI. My God, if we ever did anything like that you'd have the—

**PRESIDENT:** Yes. For example, why didn't we bug McGovern, because, after all, he's affecting the peace negotiations?

**COLSON:** Sure.

**PRESIDENT:** That would be exactly the same thing.

**COLSON:** That's right. Well, Kevin [Phillips] did—of course, no one else will pick it up. He's unfortunately considered our guy. But it's a very devastating point, that they should not be using that. [The conversation originally ended at 0:14:44.0.]