



Jack Anderson :: President Richard Nixon Audio Transcript

When I first, I guess the first that I noticed them, when I first was told by my sources I was being followed, I started watch. And they are good, they don't follow right closely behind you. They're about two blocks behind you. But they made the mistake, I remember, of having a yellow car, which is easy to spot. They had all kinds of different cars; I got so I could spot them. They used several different cars, and oh, for three or four weeks I was aware of being followed, because I could, I'd speed up and slow down. Not too much because I did it once, and it was too abrupt, and the car swerved off and drove away. They knew I'd spotted -they drove off even angrily. They knew they'd been had. They knew I'd spotted them, and so they gave up their surveillance. And I didn't want to do that, so I tried to subtly turn and do things, and then I'd watch this particular car that seemed to be always two blocks behind, and it was always two blocks behind. One of them was the yellow car, which was easy to spot. But most of them were not. But I would spot these cars, and they were always about two blocks behind. They'd speed up when I'd speed up, and slow down when I'd slow down, and turn two blocks after I had turned. And so I certainly knew, as I used to say when asked about it, I'd say " At least it keeps you righteous when you know that the government's only two blocks behind you all the time." So you're careful what you do. That went on for a few weeks, and the kids were spotting them, and finally spooked them, and they gave it up. Probably the funniest encounter of all was the time that I got a call from Helms, and he was who I think asked about this in his testimony, did he meet with me in the Madison Hotel? He did. And that caused a lot of consternation. They didn't know -

Q:

They spied on you there.

A:

Yeah, they spied on me when I was having lunch with the Director, and they, I remember my sources saying, and I don't think Helms made as much of it in his testimony, tried to smooth it over, but my sources say it caused all kinds of consternation because they were trying to decide whether they should eavesdrop on the CIA Director. And decided eventually that they couldn't do that, and so they apparently asked him. They apparently at that point notified him. Or reminded him -he obviously knew I was under surveillance, but they had to remind him of it or something, and he told them they could be there -

Q:

He was trying to get you not to run some story or something.

A:

This was the story -and I agreed not to run it -which, I had already run it, but he didn't want me to write any more about it, and I asked him why. This was the fact that we were eavesdropping on conversations in the Kremlin, but we were doing it through the cars. At that time, we had, we were a little more primitive than we are today. We were able to eavesdrop on conversations between the Kremlin and the limousines that the CI -that the Kremlin big shots rode. And they did a lot of

talking back and forth to their offices as they drove to their dachas and various other places. And we knew where they would go, whether they were visiting a girlfriend or going to a dacha. Brezhnev, I remember, used to favor a steam place where he'd take steam baths and get massages. And we monitored these conversations, and they found out about it. And so they became more careful.

So Helms said, and I figured if the Kremlin knows it there's no reason why the American people shouldn't know it, so I wrote a story. It was at that point that he asked to see me, and he said "We don't want them to know about this." And I said "Well they already know about it, and the reason that you know that they know about it is that they talked on the phone about 'Hey, they're monitoring our conversations.'" He says "That's true. But," he says, "they forget it quite often. We don't want to keep reminding them." I thought that dubious, but I figured, you know, I'd already told the story anyhow, so, and I hadn't said that it was a car -I knew that it was a car radio, but my sources asked me not to mention how we did it. Just to refer to the conversations. And so I agreed not to do it.

And I didn't, until the *Washington Post* broke it some time later, in which they told about the car and the thing, and after they did I wrote a story saying the CIA had asked me not to write about it, and I had been holding it up, but here's some more on the story the *Washington Post* broke.

Now Liddy had always said that he was told that the reason that he should kill me was because I had compromised a source, and the source had been brutally murdered and tortured. That I'd compromised a source. Well, I hadn't ever done that. This was supposed to be a CIA -I think, I was told not long ago that on his show he repeated that. So that's his story. I remember being called once by a station, saying that Liddy was on and would I talk to him? And then Liddy didn't want to, so I never did. And about causing the death of an agent. And I said "Well you tell Liddy, we can do it right now, we can settle it right now. He can put up any amount of money that he can afford, and if I have to borrow it I'll go get the same amount of money, and we'll put it into neutral hands, and all he has to do is supply the name of the agent and the evidence that the story is true. If he can supply even the name of the agent I'm gonna be surprised. Supply the name of the agent and some evidence that I had anything at all to do with his death. If he can do that, he gets to keep my money. If he can't do that, I get to keep his money. Would you tell him that?" Apparently he did, I guess. I didn't hear it broadcast. But (chuckles) he never took me up on it.