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Senate probe continues

Wiretaps may be linked to Ma Bell

AUSTIN (AP) — An electronics expert credited with discovering a wiretap on the phone of the Houston police chief will "play a part" in a Senate probe of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said Tuesday.

Hobby also said he had "always kind of assumed" his own telephone was tapped, although two Department of Public Safety checks on his

Clower said Patterson might be used as a consultant, calling him a "very technically competent person." Hobby said Patterson "will certainly play a part in the investigation" and there was "a possibility" he would be hired to help Clower's subcommittee.

Patterson was hired to check the telephones of Houston Police Chief Carol Lynn. He found a tap, and

also discovered the private line of Houston Dist. Atty. Carol Vance was tapped, as well as the phones of two of his assistants.

Lynn had said previously he was convinced that some Houston policemen engaged in illegal wiretapping last year.

He said he was talking about sophisticated taps that would re-

quire the help of Southwestern Bell employees.

Neither Hobby nor Clower would say exactly what Patterson told them.

"He just came by to give me the picture of what he believes is going on — actually all over the country, not just in Texas," Hobby said. Details of what Patterson said "will come out in the course of the subcommittee investigation."

"There are allegations that certainly give one cause for great concern," Hobby said.

Clower said the subcommittee, which received Hobby's authorization last week for an investigation of Bell, was about to enter "a period of background work" leading up to public hearings after Jan. 1. He and Hobby met, he said, to develop plans and make decisions on what kind of staff might be needed.

While Patterson was here, Clower said, "He checked out my phones, and they are free and clear."



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U. S. not NATO umbrella

BRUSSELS, (AP) — American Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger warned NATO defense ministers Tuesday against over-reliance on the United States, diplomatic sources reported.

At a closed meeting of the Defense Planning Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Schlesinger told the ministers the United States was no longer in a position to act as an umbrella for NATO allies who wanted to cut defense costs, the sources said.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton, chief military officer at NATO headquarters in Brussels, stressed that the Soviet Union was strengthening its armed forces faster than the United States and its allies and widening the gap in conventional weapons between the Warsaw Pact and the alliance.

Urging greater efforts to cut costs, Hill-Norton criticized waste in defense spending through "duplication of scientific effort, misuse of talent, waste of manpower."

The plain speaking was in response to defense cuts planned by Britain and Italy and increasing restiveness in the 15-nation alliance over spiraling costs at a time when Western economies are under siege from inflation, industrial recession and soaring oil prices.

A unified Western approach to the oil problem in particular will be one of the key elements of U. S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's message to other NATO meetings later in the week. Kissinger was due in Brussels late Tuesday.

The defense ministers had before them figures showing the United States was spending just under \$85 billion for military purposes this year compared with slightly more than \$57 billion by all its NATO allies together.

According to the figures, the average American is spending \$397 a year on defense against \$228 by the West Germans, \$172 by the British, \$170 by the French and only \$29 for the average Turk.

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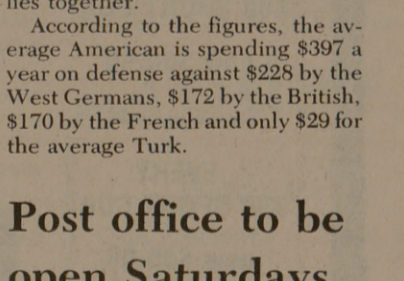
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