

WIRE-TAPPING DRY CASE UP.

Supreme Court Seems Divided on Validity of Phone Evidence.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (AP).—Members of the Supreme Court showed keen interest today in oral arguments on three appeals from Seattle, Wash., challenging the validity of evidence in prohibition cases obtained by tapping telephone lines and so listening to conversations.

Counsel on both sides were questioned closely by members of the court, Justices Brandeis and Stone indicating by their questions that they took the view that evidence so obtained was as objectionable and invalid as evidence obtained by Government agents in visiting the rooms of the defendants and making photographs of papers or of committing to memory documents exposed to their view.

Justices McReynolds and Sutherland, on the other hand, seemed to share with the Government the view that the evidence obtained by tapping the wires should be admissible.

Chief Justice Taft seemed to be impressed with the fact that the conversations heard by Government agents when listening related to the commission of crime.

The Court permitted companies, representing substantially all of the telephone interests of the country, to file a brief insisting upon the privacy of the telephone.