

WELL, THIS SHOULD MAKE THE PRESIDENT- ELECT MORE ANXIOUS TO OVERTURN DOMESTIC SPYING

Getting snooped on by Verizon employees...

Some Verizon Wireless employees accessed billing records from a cell phone President-elect Barack Obama had used, the Obama transition and Verizon Wireless said Thursday.

[snip]

Verizon Wireless CEO Lowell McAdam issued a statement apologizing to Obama. He also said that **whether they were authorized or not**, the employees who breached the president-elect's account face possible disciplinary action and were immediately put on leave without pay. [my emphasis]

I'm sorry, Mr. McAdam. Are you suggesting these Verizon employees may have been **authorized** to access Obama's records? By whom?

I'm preparing my Book Salon review for James Bamford's Shadow Factory right now. (Bamford will be at FDL Sunday at 5PM ET.) And his story of Verizon's Israeli-connected spooky side is way more troubling than the already troubling AT&T Israeli-connected spooky side.

Update: The CNN story on this makes it sound like the authorized v. unauthorized question pertains more to whether people had any business with Obama's call records. Also note it says those involved were suspended with pay.

Verizon Wireless, meanwhile, has launched an internal probe to determine

whether Obama's information was simply shared among employees or whether "the information of our customer had in any way been compromised outside our company, and this investigation continues," McAdam said in an internal company e-mail obtained by CNN.

"Employees with legitimate business needs for access will be returned to their positions, while employees who have accessed the account improperly and without legitimate business justification will face appropriate disciplinary action," McAdam said, "up to and including termination." [my emphasis]