

## FBI accused of altering results of polygraph to punish agent

BOSTON (UPI) — FBI officials in Washington altered polygraph test results of a former agent to make it appear he had lied — three years after he passed the test — following his public allegations of FBI misconduct, a report said yesterday.

Furthermore, documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act indicate FBI Director William Sessions misled Congress about the FBI's assessment of the agent's reliability, it was reported.

FBI documents given to The Boston Globe indicate that when Frank Varelli took the lie detector test in June 1984, FBI examiners in Dallas, where he was assigned, and review personnel in Washington agreed he had answered honestly, concluding "the examination is satisfactory in all its aspects," the Globe said.

However, in April 1987, FBI officials in Washington changed the test findings to reflect deceptive answers weeks after Mr. Varelli appeared before Congress charging the FBI with excesses and misconduct in its investigation of a group of Americans who opposed Reagan administration policies in El Salvador.

Mr. Varelli, a naturalized Salvadoran, was one of two men who coordinated the FBI's nationwide, five-year investigation of the

Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, known as CISPES, and other groups opposed to administration policies in Central America.

When Congress reviewed the alleged misconduct in the FBI's political spying campaign, Mr. Sessions testified that Mr. Varelli was responsible for many of the investigation's excesses. Mr. Sessions also charged the information provided by Mr. Varelli was unreliable.

But a number of documents recently released to Mr. Varelli under a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit indicate that Mr. Sessions misled Congress about the FBI's assessment of Mr. Varelli's reliability, the Globe said.

Mr. Varelli, commenting on the matter, said, "Every time the bureau comes under public scrutiny for questionable activity it puts the blame on the people it hired."

Mr. Varelli's attorney, Daniel Alcorn, called the FBI's alteration of his polygraph test "a glaring attempt to rewrite history three years after the fact."

"I find the FBI's changing of the polygraph results to be a shocking technique to use on a person who worked in good faith for the bureau," Mr. Alcorn said.

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