

Few FBI Officials Face Reprimand

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FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley suggested yesterday that only a small number of FBI officials—"three or four on up"—would be disciplined for FBI misconduct because lower-level agents were acting on their orders.

Kelley also said he would not submit a formal offer to resign if Democrat Jimmy Carter is elected President although he said he did not know if Carter wants to replace him.

Internal investigations and lawsuits by groups subjected to FBI break-ins are continuing in several areas. Charges also have been leveled that some top FBI officials engaged in financial wrongdoing with public funds.

Thus far, only Nicholas P. Callahan, formerly associate director of the FBI, has resigned as a result of internal agency investigations.

Kelley, citing the investigations and a \$37 million damage suit by the Socialist Workers Party and its youth affiliate, the Young Socialist Alliance, for years of FBI surveillance and illegal entries, declined to reveal details of FBI misconduct or elaborate on Callahan's dismissal July 16.

Kelley was interviewed on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP). His appearance was the first in a series of planned appearances in which he will defend the FBI.

Pressed for a "ballpark" figure on how many FBI personnel might be disciplined, Kelley said, "I cannot say how many will be involved in this thing. A ballpark figure possibly could be from three or four on up."

Asked about reports that 30 or more agents were involved in illegal break-ins, Kelley said: "When you go into the figure of 30, you possibly are encompassing the situation involving surreptitious entries. Those might well be construed as not doing anything other than following the authority that they think stems from those higher up."

Kelley said unidentified FBI personnel "had deceived me" by providing him information, given to Congress, that FBI break-ins stopped in 1966. Later information revealed many break-ins occurred in 1972 and 1973.

But said he still did not know who provided the false information or who gave a judge in the SWP case false information. He said investigations were continuing.

He defended the pace of internal investigations: "I am not waiting around without action. I'm insisting that these be delved into very carefully. I am insisting there be no cover-up. We are going ahead just as rapidly as we possibly can to get all the facts, but until the facts are presented, we can't do anything about these particular things."