

# Memphis Press-Scimitar

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## Levi Reveals FBI's Data About VIPs

WASHINGTON. — (AP) — Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi told Congress today that the late J. Edgar Hoover kept secret files of derogatory information about presidents, executive branch officers and 17 members of Congress.

Levi said he had discovered at least one instance when material in files was used improperly and other cases when other executive branch officials used the FBI for political purposes.

He did not identify persons covered in the files.

Levi made the disclosures in testimony before a House subcommittee examining the FBI's past and present practices of collecting and keeping information about members of Congress.

The attorney general said that FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley agrees with him that no secret files on specific individuals should be maintained in the director's office.

Hoover, who ran the FBI for 48 years until his death in 1972, kept in his personal office 164 file folders that date back to the 1920s, Levi said.

Forty-eight of them concerned public officials and other prominent individuals and "by and large, the material in these folders contained derogatory information concerning individuals," Levi said.

"Some of the derogatory

material was developed as a result of official investigations by the bureau; some was furnished by another government agency; and some was furnished by informants," he continued.

There were files on 17 members of Congress, including two who are still in Congress, the attorney general said.

"There is a document in one file indicating that derogatory material was improperly disseminated," Levi said.

"In this instance an FBI agent forwarded derogatory information to Mr. Hoover concerning a congressman who had attacked the director. The file contains a document which indicates that Mr. Hoover disseminated the derogatory information to others in the executive branch."

Levi said there is no way of knowing what other abuses may have occurred because "the files indicate that on several occasions, the bureau was directed to maintain no records with respect to the actions they had been requested to take."