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Abourezk Rips FBI, BIA on Report

Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) yesterday sharply criticized the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs for circulating what he called an erroneous report saying his son was storing guns for

The FBI admitted to Abourezk Tuesday that it was investigating an unsubstantiated report from an informer that Charles Abourezk, 22, was storing guns in his home on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota for use in July 4 violence.

"I think it's a damned outrageous practice that these unfounded, unverified reports are given such widespread distribution," the senator said.

"I am concerned about the charges against my son, Charles; but I am also con-

cerned about government decisions to widely and loosely circulate a document falsely claiming that massive violence will occur over July 4th at a time when public fear about such violence is already running rampant.

"I hope it is not true," Abourezk added, "but it sounds very much as if personnel at the Bureau of Indian Affairs circulated the FBI report in an effort to retaliate against me for my criticism of BIA inefficiency."

Sources at the FBI said that the report had been routinely distributed for "information purposes" to a limited number of officials within the Justice Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Persons receiving such information are

supposed to guard its confidentiality, they said.

Members of Abourezk's staff charged that the report had been disseminated widely throughout the Western states and was in the hands of state police officers and Indian tribal elders. The senator, they added, had learned about the report when he was given a copy by an Indian in the state of Washington.

The copies being circulated, they said, had the initials of Theodore C. Krenzke, director of BIA's Office of Indian Services. This, they said, seemed proof that the distribution had originated in the BIA.

Several attempts were made yesterday to contact Krenzke and other BIA officials for comment. However,

they were reported by their offices as unavailable and did not return a reporter's calls.