

# MUSKIE SAYS F.B.I. SPIED AT RALLIES ON '70 EARTH DAY

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Tells Senate That Report on  
Gathering in Washington  
Took Note of His Talk

## WHITE HOUSE COMMENT

Press Aide Says President  
Finds the Surveillance of  
Citizens 'Repugnant'

By JOHN W. FINNEY  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 14 —  
Senator Edmund S. Muskie  
charged today that the Federal  
Bureau of Investigation con-  
ducted widespread surveillance  
of last year's antipollution ral-  
lies on Earth Day, including his  
own appearance before a Wash-  
ington meeting.

In support of his charge, the  
Maine Democrat made public an  
F.B.I. intelligence report on the  
Earth Day rally in Washington  
on April 22, 1970. The long re-  
port, written on Department of  
Justice stationery, noted that  
Senator Muskie arrived shortly  
after 8 P.M. and "gave a short  
antipollution speech."

### 'A Dangerous Threat'

In a Senate speech today  
Senator Muskie said he under-  
stood that there were 40 to 60  
F.B.I. reports on other Earth  
Day rallies around the nation  
last April and that at least one  
Senator and probably others  
had been subjected to surveil-  
lance for their participation in  
the rallies.

Describing such surveillance  
as "intolerable in a free soci-  
ety" and "a dangerous threat  
to fundamental constitutional  
rights," the Senator asked:

"If there was widespread sur-  
veillance over Earth Day last

year, is there any political ac-  
tivity in the country which the  
F.B.I. does not consider a leg-  
itimate subject for watching?  
If antipollution rallies are a  
subject of intelligence concern,  
is anything immune? Is there  
any citizen involved in politics  
who is not a potential subject  
for an F.B.I. dossier?"

### F.B.I. Declines Comment

Neither the Justice Depart-  
ment nor the F.B.I. had any im-  
mediate comment on the Mus-  
kie speech, which fits into a  
growing Congressional pattern  
of criticism of the F.B.I. and its  
director, J. Edgar Hoover. Sen-  
ator Muskie, an unannounced  
candidate for the Democratic  
Presidential nomination, has  
previously called for the retire-  
ment of Mr. Hoover and today  
he attacked the bureau's meth-  
ods of operation.

At the White House, the  
Presidential press secretary,  
Ronald L. Ziegler, when ques-  
tioned about the Muskie speech,  
said that "snooping or sur-  
veillance of private citizens is  
totally repugnant" to President  
Nixon. Throughout the ques-  
tioning by reporters, however,  
a sometimes indignant Mr.  
Ziegler seemed to be drawing  
a distinction between Admin-  
istration policy on surveillance  
and F.B.I. activities.

While saying that he did not  
know if the F.B.I. had moni-  
tored Earth Day activities, he

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said if the F.B.I. had, it was  
"not for the surveillance of  
Earth Day activities on the  
Administration's behalf."

In response to a question,  
Mr. Ziegler said it would be  
inconsistent with Administra-  
tion policy if the bureau had  
monitored private citizens at  
the rallies. But, he went on to  
say that there was no indica-  
tion that the F.B.I. had con-  
ducted itself contrary to Admin-  
istration policy and he offered  
the supposition that if they  
were present, the bureau's  
agents were carrying out their  
"normal duties."

Mr. Ziegler described him-  
self as "exercised" over the  
Muskie speech as well as re-  
cent statements by Representa-  
tive Hale Boggs, the House  
majority leader, charging that  
the F.B.I. was tapping the tele-  
phone lines of some members  
of Congress.

Such statements, he com-  
plained, were "aimed at getting

big headlines" and left "a total-  
ly misleading impression" about  
Administration policy on sur-  
veillance.

In his speech, delivered be-  
fore a virtually empty Senate  
chamber, Senator Muskie pro-  
posed the creation of a domes-  
tic intelligence review board,  
composed of prominent mem-  
bers of Government intelligence  
agencies, Congress, the judiciary  
and the bar, to supervise the  
domestic intelligence activities  
of the F.B.I. and other agencies  
as well as to recommend exec-  
utive orders and legislation "re-  
quired to curb the unnecessary  
use of surveillance in our so-  
ciety."

Senator Muskie did not say  
where he had obtained the  
F.B.I. report, except to state  
that it was "in no way con-  
nected" with documents stolen  
from an F.B.I. district office in  
Media, Pa. A spokesman for  
Mr. Muskie would say only  
that the report came from "a  
third party."

The report, dated June 10,

1970, was, a footnote indicates,  
apparently distributed among  
other Government agencies. It  
includes a chronology of the  
preparations for the Earth Day  
rally, lists the individuals in-  
volved and gives a detailed de-  
scription of the songs sung,  
speeches made and signs car-  
ried at the rally. Senator Mus-  
kie figured only briefly in the  
report.

Attached to the report were  
two appendixes, one describing  
the Students for a Democratic  
Society, the other describing  
the Progressive Labor party.  
Senator Muskie said the "coin-  
cidence" of attaching the re-  
ports on the radical political  
organizations "underscores my  
concerns."

Mr. Muskie said:

"Here is a report that identi-  
fies me as a speaker to an  
Earth Day audience; describes  
certain other speakers as hav-  
ing association with those far-  
left organizations, and then  
wraps it all up—all the concern  
and indignation people felt that

day about the spoiling of the American environment—with a brief outline of two radical political groups.

"This document is then distributed to various other intelligence organizations, and perhaps elsewhere. What is the inference?"

"Unless one is accustomed to this kind of thing, and therefore hardened to it, the inference is that Earth Day, Senator Muskie and many thousands of Americans who gathered together to protest pollution were somehow related to S.D.S. and the Progressive Labor party. And that inference is hardly removed by the standard closing lines, "This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the F.B.I.""

From the report, it appeared that the appendixes were attached to identify the association of William Hobbs, editor of a newsletter published by the Environment News Cooperative of Takoma Park, Md.

Noting that the newsletter made its debut about a week before the rally, the report said that Mr. Hobbs, "according to another Government agency, was formerly associated with the Students for a Democratic Society at George Washington University, with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and was one of the prime movers in the Action Coordinating Committee to End Segregation in the Suburbs, better known as ACCESS."

At another point, the report noted that one of the persons attending a pre-rally news conference was Sammie Abbott, publicity director for the Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis, a foe of inner-city freeways. Mr. Abbott, the report said, "has been publicly identified in the past as a Communist party leader" and his activities on behalf of the E.C.T.C. have led to local publicity and several arrests."

"Why," Mr. Muskie asked, "does the F.B.I. need to know who attended and what was ju

said at Earth Day rallies across the nation?"

"No crime or threat of crime was involved nor was any violence threatened. Even if our intelligence agencies believed that Earth Day might turn into a threat to our national security or a scene of violence requiring Federal troops, that would not justify a report about the rallies afterwards, when it was clear that no threat to our Government did occur. And why is the report of nonviolent and noncriminal events distributed to other agencies of our Federal Government?"