

Ex-HEW Employee Indicted for Fraud

12-2-76
By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

An information specialist who resigned from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare less than a month ago was indicted by a federal grand jury here yesterday on a fraud charge growing out of a probe of financial irregularities within the FBI.

Marvin A. Beers, 66, was accused of conspiring to defraud the federal government of more than \$30,000 over a 19-year period by issuing fake invoices to cover work allegedly done by the U. S. Recording Co.

Activities of the U. S. Recording Co., a Washington-based electronics firm, have been under investigation after allegations on Capitol Hill that it had been favored by the FBI in its awarding of contracts for the secret purchase of thousands of dollars worth of electronic surveillance equipment.

Named as an unindicted co-conspira-

tor was Joseph X. Tait, the owner of U.S. Recording co. and a longtime friend of former No. 3 FBI executive John P. Mohr.

Tait's attorney Brian Gettings, said he would have no comment on his client's alleged role in the fraud scheme. "I believe that naming individuals as unindicted co-conspirators is libelous and slanderous," said Gettings, himself a former prosecutor.

Gettings said that his client has been "fully cooperative" in the investigation, and that Justice Department prosecutors have not indicated whether or not Tait will also be indicted.

Justice Department attorney John Dowd said yesterday after the indictment was returned that the investigation is continuing. The term of the grand jury that returned the Beers indictment expired yesterday, but evidence will be presented to another grand jury in the near future, investigators said.

According to the indictment returned yesterday, Beers' duties at HEW included handling purchase orders for sound recording projects and supervising those projects.

The indictment alleged that while Beers was with the Public Health Service, he would submit inflated invoices to the U.S. Recording Co. to include work that was not done. In return, he received money from Tait and U.S. Recording Co., the indictment further charged.

Although the indictment covers a period ranging from 1953 to 1972 and estimates a total amount of \$30,000 in allegedly fraudulently obtained funds, it specifically charges Beers with illegally obtaining only \$10,000 in such funds during 1972.

A spokesman for HEW said yesterday that Beers resigned a position with the National Institutes of Health effective Nov. 19. He was making approximately \$30,000 a year, the spokesman said.