

Bug Traced To NBC's ^{Frank} Facilities ₉₋₁₀₋₆₈

WASHINGTON (AP) — A hidden microphone, traced to NBC recording facilities, was found accidentally in a hotel room being used for a closed session of the Democratic Platform Committee in Chicago, Rep. Hale Boggs said Friday.

The Louisiana congressman, who was chairman of the committee, issued the statement after NBC News announced in New York that it was providing the Chicago office of the Justice Department with information about "the placing of an NBC microphone" in the hotel room.

Boggs said he had asked for an investigation and had no original intention of making any statement until the inquiry was completed.

"During the executive deliberations of the Platform Committee in a private room in the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago we accidentally found a hidden microphone taped under a cushion behind a curtain," he said in a statement released through his office.

"The microphone was attached to a cable leading directly to the recording facilities of the National Broadcasting Company in the same hotel."

The incident occurred on Aug. 26. NBC had not been publicly connected to the incident prior to the developments Friday. Reuven Frank, president of NBC News, disclosed the link in a telegram to Boggs and said NBC plans "stern disciplinary action against any personnel who acted improperly."

"An officer (unidentified) of

the National Broadcasting Company asked to see me and discuss the matter," Boggs said. "I readily agreed. NBC's release of the telegram before that meeting which they had requested comes as a complete surprise."

Boggs, however, said he had been asked for comment since NBC released its telegram.

"I feel that it is the duty of every citizen to assist in enforcing the laws of our land," he said. "To me laws apply equally to all men and to all groups. No one can select which law to obey and which to disobey. Wiretapping, bugging and eavesdropping by electronic devices, except in matters of security to our nation and against organized crime, are direct violations of federal and state statutes. The matter now is for determination by the appropriate federal and state law enforcement agencies."

Frank's telegram to Boggs said "within the past 24 hours additional information has come into our possession" and this is being given to the Justice Department. "I felt that you as chairman of the Platform Committee would want to know of these developments," Frank told Boggs.