

Burglaries by FBI dated to Roosevelt

Bolt Sun 8/28/73

Washington (AP)—A former close associate of J. Edgar Hoover said yesterday the FBI began committing burglaries to gain foreign intelligence information more than 30 years ago, on specific authorization of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The break-ins began before the outbreak of World War II, "when the clouds began to lower," the former high FBI official, who asked that his name not be used, said.

He said the break-ins were "very rare," and were concentrated mostly during war years. But he confirmed accounts of other former FBI men who said the break-ins continued under the administrations of Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

President Roosevelt, worried about looming threats from Japan and Germany, gave Hoover authorization to use illegal means to gain information on foreign diplomatic codes, and on their United States spy rings, said this source, who asked not to be named.

He said Roosevelt told Hoover, "We just have to forget about certain things. The ends justify the means."

William W. Turner, a former FBI agent, said yesterday he participated in a break-in at the office of Japan's consul in Seattle in 1957 or 1958, during the Eisenhower administration.

Mr. Turner, now an author and private investigator living in California, said in a telephone interview that he acted as a look-out while a specially trained crew of agents from Washington opened the consul's safe, photographed the contents, and took the photos back to Washington.

He said he did not know what had been photographed. "Nobody ever briefs you," he

said.

Mr. Turner said he took part in about a dozen break-ins during his 10 years with the FBI, some to photograph documents and others to place hidden microphones, one of his specialties.

He said most of the break-ins were authorized by FBI higher-ups in Washington, although he committed a couple of "bootleg jobs" without authorization.

Mr. Turner was fired from the FBI in 1961 because of letters he wrote to Congress criticizing the way Hoover ran the bureau.

The matter of FBI burglaries was raised by President Nixon in his news conference Wednesday, when he defended his own short-lived approval of a 1970 intelligence plan that would have authorized FBI break-ins to get foreign cryptographic information.

Mr. Nixon said such break-ins were widely authorized and well known during the Democratic administrations of Kennedy and Johnson, although two former Democratic attorneys general have denied any knowledge of such burglaries.

Actually, Hoover's associate said, the break-ins were going on even when Mr. Nixon was Vice President under Eisenhower, and began long before that.