

EX-F.B.I. OFFICIAL TESTIFIED AGNEW WAS INVESTIGATED

Senate Staff Told of Check
Before 1968 Election at
Request of Johnson

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 2—The former No. 3 man in the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified under oath in 1973 that the bureau investigated Spiro T. Agnew shortly before the 1968 election at the request of President Johnson.

In heretofore unpublished testimony, Cartha D. DeLoach, formerly assistant to the director of the F.B.I., asserted that shortly before Mr. Agnew was elected Vice President, President Johnson asked the bureau to investigate him on a matter of "the gravest national security" and that an investigation was conducted.

The testimony was taken by Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., Republican of Tennessee, and Senate Watergate committee investigators.

Of the F.B.I. investigation, Mr. DeLoach said "that the reason this was being done was because they felt the Republicans—and this was their [the White House] statement—the Republicans were attempting to slow down the South Vietnamese from going to the Paris peace talks and they wanted to know who either Mr. Nixon or Mr. Agnew had been in touch with from Albuquerque when they visited the city several days prior to that."

Mrs. Chennault Involved

Mr. DeLoach said that the late J. Edgar Hoover had authorized an investigation and that the Domestic Intelligence Division of the F.B.I. had obtained the toll call receipts of persons on Mr. Agnew's staff in an effort to discover if anyone had called Mrs. Anna Chennault.

Mrs. Chennault, widow of the commander of the Flying Tigers in World War II, was alleged to have been an intermediary between the South Vietnamese and the Republicans.

Sources who worked on the White House staff in 1968 dispute the genesis of the investigation. They say it was the F.B.I. that first suggested Republican links to the South Vietnamese.

Mr. DeLoach also said in his testimony that Mrs. Chennault had been the subject of "physical surveillance" by the F.B.I. that involved following her with teams of agents.

According to sources within
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the bureau in 1968, it was President Johnson's concern over opponents of his Vietnam policy that resulted in a team of Washington field office agents being assigned to prepare reports for the White House on any political figures who entered the Soviet Embassy on 16th Street N.W. in Washington.

Embassy regularly watched

Published reports have long noted that the bureau maintained a constant physical surveillance of the embassy and named all persons who entered or left.

The bureau has declined comment on a number of allegations that it entered into widespread political activity in the last decade for its own purposes or at the behest of Presidents Johnson and Nixon, pending the upcoming Congressional testimony of Clarence M. Kelly, the F.B.I.

As a matter of routine, the bureau made an index reference of each person who was seen at the Soviet Embassy and attempted to establish his identity and whether the visit involved a breach of national security.

When Mr. DeLoach ordered the special survey, Courtland J. Jones, a supervisor of the national security team in the Washington field offices, was put in charge of a survey of the index cards to find out

which prominent and political figures were recorded.

F.B.I. sources said they had been told that the special survey was on behalf of the White House.

The special survey went on for some time, according to one former F.B.I. official, "and it engendered numerous reports to the White House."

Mr. Jones declined comment. Mr. DeLoach was unavailable after repeated attempts to reach him.

Reports on Congressmen

One source said he believed that the operation might have resulted in reports on at least a dozen Senators and Representatives being sent to the White House. A White House aide during that period said he could not delay that such an operation had taken place, but he said that much of the data had been offered voluntarily by the F.B.I. and not because President Johnson had asked for it.

This source said that he could not recall seeing any stream of data on political figures involved with the Soviet Embassy coming into the White House.

One former bureau official said that such reports, particularly if the President passed them on to anyone, would compromise the F.B.I.'s then completely secret surveillance techniques at the Embassy.

This F.B.I. source said the operation had resulted in boxes

of logs and records and that there were some indications that these may have been destroyed.

Domestic intelligence and political activities were laid to the bureau during the Senate Watergate hearings in 1973. The Chicago Tribune and the Scripps-Howard newspapers compiled major reports on F.B.I. activity and reported that bureau agents had been sent to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City in 1964 at the behest of President Johnson; that the bureau allegedly gathered material for Mr. Johnson on Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, his opponent in the 1964 Presidential race and that the bureau routinely gave various Presidents information on political and public figures.

The first indication of the investigation of Mr. Agnew was given in these press reports.

DeLoach-Johnson Ties

Mr. DeLoach has denied that he was a protégé of President Johnson's but he has acknowledged that the President requested him to assume liaison duties with the White House because Mr. Johnson had known him as a Senator.

Mr. DeLoach has also acknowledged that Mr. Johnson ordered a direct telephone line to the White House installed in the bedroom of Mr. DeLoach's

White House aides from the



Associated Press

Cartha D. DeLoach, former F.B.I. official, confirmed investigation of Spiro T. Agnew.

Johnson era said that an enormous amount of F.B.I. intelligence flowed in between 1964 and 1968 and was handled with the utmost secrecy.

It was reportedly delivered to Walter Jenkins, a Presidential aide, and when he left office it was delivered to a secretary, James Jones; now a Democratic Representative from Oklahoma, and W. Marvin Watson.

After Mr. Jenkins left government in October, 1964, following an arrest, Mr. DeLoach testified, the number of field investigations ordered on Johnson appointees was so great that Mr. Hoover complained of the burden.

During the Nixon era, the Watergate hearings brought out, the White House used a request for a background check on a CBS newsman, Daniel

Schorr, as a method of harassing private citizens.

Reports on a Senator

President Johnson was regularly supplied by the F.B.I. with confidential information, including details of a prominent Republican Senator's sexual activities, Time magazine reports in its current issue.

But Time said that Mr. Johnson sometimes denounced tapping telephones as "the worst thing in our society."

The magazine said the information had been given to the President by J. Edgar Hoover, then F.B.I. director.

The magazine also said that Mr. Johnson got the transcript and tapes of the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr's personal activities.