

Md. Senate Told of Police Sur

By Edward Walsh

Washington Post Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 14—Baltimore Police Commissioner Donald D. Pomerleau testified today that his department's intelligence unit has routinely given copies of its reports—some involving public officials—to various state and federal agencies, including the FBI and Army intelligence officials.

Pomerleau also said copies of these reports, which are at the center of a controversy over alleged spying by Baltimore police on politicians, newsmen and others, were routinely passed on to Maryland Attorney General Francis B. Burch and the mayor of Baltimore.

Testifying for more than three hours before the State Senate Constitutional and Public Law Committee, Pomerleau urged the legislature to launch an investigation of the charges and the practices of the inspection services division (ISD), the Baltimore police department's intelligence unit.

He said repeatedly that he wants to "open this thing up" to public scrutiny, but added that his men would testify only in private, executive committee sessions. "Otherwise, we'll be declining to answer in certain circumstances," he said.

A spokesman for the FBI said later today that police departments in major cities still provide information to the FBI, and that all of these reports are retained in FBI files. The spokesman, James Urby, also said that, depending on the content of such a report, the information might also be disseminated to other



By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post

DONALD D. POMERLEAU

Baltimore police commissioner (left) testifies on police surveillance.

CLARENCE MITCHEL III

agencies in the "intelligence community," which he said included the CIA, Secret Service and military intelligence units.

A Defense Department spokesman said the Army stopped collecting information on civilians in 1917 and that most of its files on civilians including information provided by police departments, were destroyed then.

Burch could not be reached for comment, but Deputy State Attorney General Henry

R. Lord said he recalls seeing a "good many" ISD reports but none in the last three years. He said he believes the reports "were discarded as they were received," and that none were retained by the attorney general's office or passed on to other state officials.

William Donald Schaefer, mayor of Baltimore since 1971, could not be reached for comment.

Pomerleau testified here today on a resolution calling for

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a state investigation of the charges of illegal and improper police surveillance.

In a report to Gov. Mandel last week, Pomerleau and other top Baltimore police officials denied that they ever placed political figures, newsmen or others under surveillance unless there was reason to believe a crime was involved. The officials conceded, however, that the investigative unit's files did contain the names of politicians and others who may have been seen at functions of various antiwar or civil rights groups that were under surveillance.

One such acknowledged case involved a 1971 political debate between two black mayoralty candidates that was attended and reported on by an agent who had infiltrated a black activist group. It was this kind of report, as well as all others, that Pomerleau said today he routinely passed on to other state and federal officials.

The police spying charges were first made about three weeks ago in Baltimore newspapers. According to the stores, ISD agents have closely followed the activities of black politicians, including U.S. Rep. Parren J. Mitchell,

former Baltimore State's Attorney Milton B. Allen and the two 1971 mayoralty candidates, State Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III (D-Baltimore) and former Baltimore City Solicitor George L. Russell.

Pomerleau, who during the hearing said the press has to "develop a higher integrity," refused to answer questions after the hearing. Rising from the witness chair, he looked at reporters who were pressing him to elaborate on his testimony and said, "I am not going to talk to the media at all."

Pomerleau repeated again today that the files on various activist groups were destroyed in a city incinerator in January, 1974. He conceded under questioning that because copies of ISD reports were distributed to other agencies the information could still be on file somewhere.

Pomerleau and other police officials have said police surveillance of activist groups in Baltimore stopped in 1973, when the ISD unit turned its attention to organized crime activities.

Pomerleau defended the surveillance of various activist groups. Referring often to street demonstrations and civil disorders of the late 1960s and early 1970s, he said at one point: "People are damned tired of all this anarchy and revolution."

He also defended the ISD's retention in its files of reports involving political figures and others who might have been seen at rallies or other functions that were under police surveillance. Police, Pomerleau said, "reach conclusions in cases by putting little threads together," and therefore generally retain all intelligence information.

In his report to the governor, Pomerleau supplied Mandel with a list of 60 organizations and 120 individuals still under police surveillance in Baltimore. The list has not been made public, and when committee members asked to see it but not release it, Pomerleau said he would first have to check with the police department's lawyers.

"You won't recognize any of the names," he told the committee.

Pomerleau also charged labor union officials, bitter over his retaliation against police officers who staged a five-day strike last summer, were responsible for the police spying controversy.