

## F.B.I. MONITORED MUSLIMS' CALLS

Agents Testify They Taped  
Conversations With Clay

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HOUSTON, June 5—The Federal Bureau of Investigation monitored the telephoned calls of the leader of the Black Muslim religious sect from 1960 through at least 1966, agents testified in court today. Several of the monitored conversations related to the former heavy-weight champion, Cassius Clay, himself a Black Muslim.

But the former head of the conscientious objector division of the Department of Justice said none of these conversations played any part in Clay's being refused a draft exemption in 1966.

Clay is seeking to have District Judge Joe Ingraham dismiss a five-year prison sentence for draft evasion, alleging that the Government used "tainted" evidence at his trial two years ago.

Barry Pickett and Frederick J. Brownell, both special agents, said that the F.B.I. listened to all telephone conversations of Elijah Muhammad, the leader of the Black Muslims, from 1960 through at least 1966 while he was residing in Phoenix, Ariz.

The F.B.I. also had an electronic eavesdropping device planted in Mr. Muhammad's residence, they said.

At least three telephone calls during this period were made to Clay, who announced pub-

licly that he was a Black Muslim after he won the heavy-weight championship from Sonny Liston in 1964.

### Conversations on File

Two of these conversations were sent from the Phoenix office of the F.B.I. to Louisville, Ky., where the bureau started a file on Clay after he joined the Muslims.

However, Special Agent Warren L. Walsh of the Louisville office of the F.B.I. said that the two conversations were not considered when he was making up a background report on Clay for the Justice Department after the boxer had applied for a draft exemption.

In 1966, when the investigation of Clay was being made, applications for conscientious objector status were reviewed by a special section of the Justice Department.

T. Oscar Smith, the former head of this section, said that he had never heard of the monitored telephone conversations, had seen no report of them, and that no one from the F.B.I. had ever mentioned anything to him about them.

The review of Clay's request for exemption, he said, was handled routinely.

However, Mr. Smith did acknowledge that when he overruled a recommendation by a special examiner that Clay be given a conscientious objector exemption, he took his letter containing the ruling to his superiors in the Department of Justice. Certain changes, but none of substance, were made, Mr. Smith said.

Clay was tried in Houston because he considered it his home in the summer of 1967 and because he refused induction into the armed services there.

Judge Ingraham has not indicated when he will rule in the matter.