



EX-FBI AGENT JOHN KEARNEY AND WIFE (L) DRAW SUPPORT OF HIS COLLEAGUES OUTSIDE COURT

NEEDED: FBI GUIDELINES Knowledgeable men have long known that under the iron reign of J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI was frequently dedicated to enforcing the law by violating it.

In the 48 years that Hoover ran the bureau, many of his agents executed countless illegal entries, known as "bag jobs." They broke into embassies and apartments, intercepted and opened mail, stole and photocopied documents, wiretapped and bugged U.S. citizens as well as foreign suspects.

John Kearney, the former supervisor of the FBI office in New York, has been indicted for conducting illegal wiretapping and mail tampering.

Kearney no doubt was told that these illegalities involved "national security," a blanket cover popularly

employed by intelligence agencies even when national security is not involved.

Who were the FBI officials who ordered these bag jobs, mail openings, wiretaps, and other illegalities? Are they all dead? Have they retired?

More important yet, what has Congress done to work out an FBI charter that clearly defines its sphere of legality?

There is no point in making John Kearney the "fall guy" for superiors who have neatly moved into retirement. Neither is there much point in choosing a new FBI chief without first providing a clear list of guidelines.

Without such a list the bureau is destined to an existence of confusion and ambiguity.

It is about time legislation was enacted to inform the American citizen what the FBI legally can and cannot do.

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