

FBI continues *F. Pack 8/12/76* to burglarize homes-Kelley

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley said Wednesday he cannot flatly deny that FBI agents or informers are continuing to burglarize the homes and offices of American citizens.

"I wish I could say categorically, unquestionably, that this is not going on," Kelley said at a news conference. "I will say, however, that I feel that it is not being done. I can also say if I determine it's being done now, I will take action."

Because FBI officials deceived him in the past, he said, "I can no longer make categorical, sweeping statements."

The director said he has insisted on thorough FBI and Justice Department investigations. Burglaries were conducted by agents during the past five years and a burglary was allegedly carried out by an FBI informer only last month.

"If there's linen to be cleaned in our own household, we should clean it," Kelley said.

Kelley refused to predict that the investigations would lead to criminal charges and said agents who carried out the burglaries "may not be charged" because they were only following orders from their bosses.

But he said many FBI employees fear they will be indicted or disciplined for their role in the burglaries or other misconduct.

"Right now," he said, "there are many people whose morale has been seriously affected by virtue of the possibility of either disciplinary or prosecutive action."

Teams of FBI agents have been assigned to work with department prosecutors on the burglary case and on a separate investigation of financial improprieties involving FBI insurance and recreation funds, purchasing procedures and possible misuse of laboratory equipment.