

FBI documents show ^{NEW} attorneys general lied

Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The FBI Wednesday made public secret documents that showed former Attys. Gen. Ramsey Clark and Nicholas Katzenbach knew about FBI counter-intelligence efforts they later denied.

In Clark's case, the documents showed, he publicly denounced as "lawless" some of the spy work he urged while in office.

The incidents were described in the FBI's files on its "Cointelpro" operations to disrupt and neutralize black extremists and violence-prone organizations.

Most of the files were released Monday but the one involving Clark and Katzenbach was withheld pending clearance from the Justice Department, an FBI spokesman said.

In the file, Clark was quoted by The Washington Post March 12, 1974, as saying records of the FBI's efforts to head off rioting and other violence by ghetto blacks in the late 1960s had "a very lawless tone."

"I don't think any of the tactics are ever acceptable for a government to use," Clark said. He said FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover "showed an almost deranged attitude on certain subjects like ... the coalition of black nationalist groups."

But an internal FBI memo by J.T. Smith, now retired, commented, "Clark has chosen to forget that in 1967 he was very concerned with the relationship of black nationalist groups."

The file said Clark told Hoover Sept. 14, 1967, "We must be certain ... to take every step possible to determine whether the rioting is pre-planned or organized, and if so to determine the identity of the people and interests."

Smith's memo, addressed to Assistant Director W.R. Wannall, said Clark was "overreacting" to the measures the FBI took to head off violence.

"Yet, he recognized this violence when he was in a position of responsibility," Smith said.

Former Attys. Gen. Katzenbach and Richard Kleindiest also "joined Clark in saying they were not informed of the (counter-intelligence) programs" while they were in office, the file said,

again quoting The Washington Post.

Katzenbach referred to the FBI's project of disrupting the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama.

"I do recall being asked by the bureau if agents could go visit Klan leaders, not to arrest them, but to make their presence known and to let the Klan know it was being watched," Kat-

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zenbach told the Post.

But the FBI file included a memo in which Katzenbach told Hoover Sept. 3, 1965: "I have been aware in a general way of the accomplishments of the bureau in the area of Klan penetration, but I appreciate the benefit of detailed information on this subject ..."

"May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the development of your informant system in the Klan organizations and on the results you have obtained through it."

"In retrospect, as indulged in by our former attorneys general and the lib-

eral elements, the black nationalists and extremists of the 1960s are made to appear as a police-persecuted minority," Smith said.

"Forgotten is the smell of smoke that rose above burned-out sections of our cities in the latter part of that decade. Forgotten are the caches of arms and ammunition, the revolutionary promises and threats, the hate-filled diatribes against our country and its people.

"Forgotten are the staggering losses of property. Forgotten are the maimed and dead victims of that era."