

F.B.I. Bars Data on Ties To a Nashville Journalist

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 20—The Federal Bureau of Investigation refused today to answer specific Congressional questions about its "special relationship" with a former Nashville newspaperwoman and how she came into possession of a highly sensitive document that the bureau had reportedly authenticated.

James B. Adams, deputy associate director of the bureau, said he would be unable to answer specific questions about the alleged continuing relationship between the bureau and the woman, Jacqueline Srouji, because the matter was under an investigation that could lead to possible criminal prosecution.

In a three-page statement, however, Mr. Adams told the House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Environment that he personally had no knowledge that Mrs. Srouji had been used by the bureau to persuade the subcommittee not to continue its investigation into the death of Karen Silkwood. Miss Silkwood was an Oklahoma plutonium worker who had charged widespread health violations at a factory operated by the Kerr-McGee Corporation.

Official's Denial

Mr. Adams denied that the bureau, as an organization, had authorized any type of assistance to Mrs. Srouji, including access to bureau documents concerning its investigation of Miss Silkwood's death.

The F.B.I. official also at first refused to comment in any way on statements made to The New York Times by Homer Boynton, another high bureau official, critical of John Seigenthaler, publisher of The Nashville Tennessean, the newspaper where Mrs. Srouji worked until she was dismissed two weeks ago.

In response to questions, however, Mr. Adams said that if The New York Times report of Mr. Boynton's remarks was accurate, such remarks would be "improper" and "strictly forbidden."

Representative John D. Din-

gell, the Michigan Democrat who heads the subcommittee, said that the Justice Department had informed him that the remarks of Mr. Boynton questioning the integrity of Mr. Seigenthaler, were under investigation by the department's office of professional responsibility.

'Unwise and Dangerous'

The testimony and somewhat limited denials of Mr. Adams came after Mr. Seigenthaler told the subcommittee that he believed the bureau in its relationship with Mrs. Srouji had been "unwise, reckless and even dangerous."

Mr. Seigenthaler said he based his judgment of this relationship on Mrs. Srouji's sworn testimony to the subcommittee late last month and on at least three long conversations he had with her in early May.

It was during one of these conversations, according to Mr. Seigenthaler, that Mrs. Srouji showed him a copy of a "highly sensitive document" that he says the bureau since proved was authentic. The publisher has refused to disclose the subject matter of this document on the ground that such a description would be "dangerous." He did not elaborate.

Questioned on Employees

It was also during these conversations, Mr. Seigenthaler said, that Mrs. Srouji told him that she had answered F.B.I. questions about two employees of The Tennessean.

Mr. Seigenthaler said two weeks ago that it was the admission that she had provided the bureau with some information about the employees that convinced him to ask for her resignation.

In a news conference in Nashville on Tuesday, Mrs. Srouji denied that she had provided the F.B.I. information about The Tennessean or members of its staff, or that the bureau had ever paid her for any information.