

FBI Agents on Hill Staff Said to Lobby and Snoop

10/14/78

By Ronald Kessler

Washington Post Staff Writer

The FBI lent agents to congressional staffs for the primary purpose of lobbying on behalf of former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and reporting back information on the personal lives of members of Congress, according to a source with first-hand knowledge of the operation.

The ostensible purpose of the program was to aid members of Congress by lending them agents who had expertise in particular areas, such as accounting, the source said.

"That was the cover," he said. "The men did the work. What was important to the bureau was the other two areas," he said.

The source defined these areas as acting as a "lobbyist for Hoover objectives, such as getting special retirement provisions," and reporting back "personal derogatory information" on sexual ac-

tivities, drinking habits, or other personal matters.

"The idea was the infiltration of Congress," the source said.

An FBI spokesman said the allegation is "absolutely false."

"Mr. Hoover didn't need anyone to lobby for him in the Congress, as he did a very good job himself," he added.

The spokesman said 30 agents are currently assigned on a temporary basis to the House Appropriations Committee, which approves FBI budgets. He said no agents are assigned to other staffs.

Courtney A. Evans, a former FBI assistant director who was assigned on a part-time basis to the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee, said yesterday, "There was a general broad attitude that if you learned anything that the director would be interested in, you'd report it back."

Evans said that although he had heard that sex and drinking information was passed along to Hoover, he generally reported back only information concerning official business.

Concerning the lobbying
See FBI, A10, Col. 4

FBI on Hill Is Said to Lobby, Spy

FBI, From A1

charge, Evans said, "obviously, you create a favorable attitude when you're cooperating."

The source said Hoover became "suspicious" of Evans because he did not report back derogatory information, particularly on the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"Some men would not do it," he said. "They had scruples, and they just didn't hear derogatory information."

As a result, he said, "Some (of the agents) would be withdrawn."

The source said the information on members of Congress was given either orally or in "Do Not File" memos to FBI officials reporting directly to Hoover.

The data was stored in Hoover's suite of offices, the source said.