

Ford Backs FBI in Dowdy Case

By Arnold B. Sawislak
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House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford defended the FBI yesterday against charges of impropriety in its electronic surveillance in a criminal investigation that led to indictment of Rep. John Dowdy (D-Tex.) on bribery charges.

Ford told newsmen the surveillance in Dowdy's Capitol office last year, involving an FBI informant with a hidden tape recorder, was authorized by court order. And in a criminal investigation, said Ford, "I am not sure we should differentiate in a case like that between a citizen and a member of Congress."

Ford said that House Democratic Leader Hale Boggs, who has charged FBI tapping, should present any evidence he has "to a responsible com-

mittee . . . so that congress and the public will see it in black and white."

Herbert R. Rainwater, San Bernardino, Calif., the commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars also came to the defense of the FBI and director J. Edgar Hoover.

Rainwater said in a statement that the same Americans who have been "nibbling away" trying to destroy the military are now attempting to undermine and destroy the FBI.

Naming Sens. Edmund S. Muskie, Edward M. Kennedy, George S. McGovern and Hubert Humphrey, he said "would-be presidential candidates have suddenly found it expedient to harrangue the bureau and its director."