

Rep. Gallagher Says FBI Attempted to Force Him to Quit

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Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher (D-N.J.), under indictment for conspiracy and perjury, charged on the House floor yesterday that the FBI had attempted to blackmail him into quitting Congress with a "monstrous lie" involving his wife.

In an emotional speech made under a rule of "personal privilege," Gallagher said the key figure in the attempt was the FBI's former No. 3 official, Cartha D. (Deke) DeLoach, who retired in 1970 as assistant to Director J. Edgar Hoover. Gallagher called for Hoover's resignation.

An FBI spokesman said the bureau would have no immediate comment because it had not seen the Gallagher statement. About 75 congressmen listened to the speech but none responded. DeLoach said, "I won't dignify the congressman's charges with a statement."

Gallagher said the attempt was made after he refused to allow his House subcommittee investigating invasions of privacy to be used in a feud between Hoover and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Gallagher was indicted by a federal grand jury April 7 on charges of evading \$102,228 in income tax, perjury and conspiracy. He is to be arraigned Friday in Newark.

Gallagher charged that the FBI turned raw files over to Life magazine, which published articles about him in 1967 and 1968 including one that said he was a "tool and collaborator of the Mafia." Another article related the alleged removal of the body of Barney O'Brien from Gallagher's house in Bayonne, N.J., by convicted mobster Harold (Kayo) Konigsberg.

"The FBI was spreading the story that Mr. O'Brien died in my bed while with my wife," Gallagher said. "Mr. (Roy)

Cohn was to make me aware of this and the FBI was convinced that I would resign from the Congress and that would write finis to the career of Congressman Gallagher.

"The whole thing is one monstrous lie," Gallagher said. Gallagher said his wife is "a wonderful and decent woman."

"The only blackmail involved," he said, "was the blackmail of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the only body to be removed was the body of Gallagher from the Congress of the United States," the congressman said.

"On a matter like this, Mr. DeLoach must have had the approval of Mr. Hoover and that alone is enough for Mr. Hoover to resign," Gallagher said.

In June, 1966, Gallagher said, he refused to sign a letter allegedly drafted by DeLoach asking Attorney General Nicholas de B. Katzenbach who authorized the wiretapping of Martin Luther King Jr. and casinos in Las Vegas. He said the letter was delivered by Cohn, a friend and a key figure in the Army-McCarthy hearings of the 1950s.

"I told Mr. Cohn that I would not send out the letter," Gallagher said. "It was very clear that I was expected to use my position as chairman of the special subcommittee and my position as a member of Congress to intervene directly in the running feud between Mr. Hoover and Mr. Kennedy," he said.