

Kelley Ordered To Soften Talk Critical of Media

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FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley was ordered off a Washington-to-Albuquerque flight yesterday for an unscheduled conference with his boss, Attorney General Edward H. Levi, who objected to a speech Kelley was planning to make.

Kelley was on Trans World Airlines flight 217 from Washington. The plane stopped in Chicago and was set to take off for Wichita, Kan., and Albuquerque, N.M. After receiving an emergency message, the pilot turned the plane around and taxied back to the terminal at O'Hare International Airport. Kelley got off to confer by telephone with Levi.

After the conference, Kelley deleted major sections of a prepared speech that attacked portions of the American press and warned of future FBI plans to stop cooperating with certain unnamed reporters and news organizations.

Justice Department officials said Kelley's speech would be limited to its milder portions in which the director praised his generally "healthy" relations with the news media and called for a continuing public discussion of FBI problems, aided by the press.

Kelley, in a statement issued through the Justice Department in Washington, explained that his original speech "appears to give the wrong impression and does not truly reflect my feelings about the press."

A White House spokeswoman said the turnabout was initiated by Phillip W. Buchen, counsel to President Ford in reaction to press accounts of Kelley's prepared text. Buchen called Levi, who happened to be in Chicago, and told him the speech did not appear to reflect the President's press policy, the spokeswoman said.

The prepared text, which had been carried on the Associated Press and United Press International wires, said that some reporters and news organizations had been unfair to the FBI in stories about revelations of past abuses by the bureau. The speech then warned:

"If a journalist continually displays an obsession to support his own hostile notions about our agency, or to

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support a boilerplate editorial policy without regard for objectivity, then he cannot expect to continue to enjoy any sort of productive relationship with us."

The speech, which was prepared for delivery to the New Mexico Press Association, did not specify which reporters or organizations were hostile to the bureau, but it noted that "that element of the news media that has come to be known as the 'national news media' must bear its fair share of the responsibility."

In his text, Kelly said he initiated a general open-door policy toward the press when he took over as FBI chief three years ago, only to have some news organizations respond with unfair criticism. "We will not continue to throw open the doors for those who invariably dash us with scalding water," the text said.

Kelley's text said he maintained the "deepest respect and my pledge of cooperation" for those journalists "who tell it like it is, whether we are right or wrong—and most of them do."

In Washington, an FBI official declined to identify the targets of Kelley's speech but said The Washington Post was not among them. He said no directive had been issued naming specific reporters or organizations. The official said that even reporters who have "burned" the bureau would continue to receive routine information but probably would not get the



FBI DIRECTOR CLARENCE KELLEY
... deletes major portions of text

benefit of extensive FBI research in response to inquiries.

In a statement issued here after he already had continued on to Albuquerque, Kelly said, "Perhaps our concern unduly intruded upon our reason and gave rise to rhetoric which too harshly assessed the blame on the press."

"I am, therefore, casting aside most of the prepared text and will still speak from the heart, but without what I recognize could be misinterpreted."