

Kelley Reimburses FBI For Window Valances

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FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley—his job in jeopardy because he accepted gifts and home-decorating services from subordinates—paid the bureau \$335 yesterday for a pair of government-made window valances.

The \$335, which Kelley paid by check, represented the cost of constructing the plywood frames for the tops of windows, additional carpentry work to correct errors in the original measurements and four trips to Kelley's Bethesda apartment for their installation shortly after he took office in July 1973.

This disclosure came as Kelley met with Attorney General Edward H. Levi for more than an hour yesterday. However, both men refused to say whether Levi will recommend that President Ford retain Kelley as FBI chief.

Mr. Ford asked Levi on Wednesday for a report about allegations that Kelley had acted improperly. The Washington Post reported the same day that one Justice Department official had recommended that Kelley be fired and another had urged that he be publicly reprimanded.

Kelley left yesterday's meeting with Levi by a rear exit, and Justice Department spokesmen said only that they had discussed "FBI operational matters."

Sources said Levi, in consultation with Deputy Attorney General Harold R. Tyler Jr., was still pondering what recommendation, if any, he will send to Mr. Ford.

The President's request followed Kelley's admission Tuesday that he had accepted the gifts from his office staff and the FBI's top echelon of executives. He said the valances had been made and installed in his apartment by the FBI's special exhibits section "without my knowledge."

The Post report said that John W. Dowd, a Justice Department official heading an investigation into "abuses of power" by FBI officials, had recommended that Kelley be fired because of these actions. However, The Post added, Dowd's superior, Michael E. Shaheen Jr., head of the Office of Professional Responsibility, had recommended a reprimand rather than discharge.

In talking with reporters Wednesday, Levi said parts of The Post article were "technically not accurate." On Wednesday and again yesterday,

The Post requested that Levi identify any inaccuracies in the article, but Justice Department officials said he would not elaborate.

Privately, Justice sources said Levi had not disputed the main points of The Post article—that he received separate recommendations about firing or reprimanding Kelley. His comment involved "some of the nuances" in The Post article, the sources said.

Other department sources described the Attorney General as having no doubts about Kelley's honesty or integrity. Levi, they said, is aware that Kelley accepted the gifts and services under circumstances that might have been due to honest errors or a belief that they were not improper.

However, the sources added, Levi must decide whether these incidents have compromised Kelley's image as a man capable of reforming the FBI and correcting past abuses by bureau officials.

Kelley is known to believe that his acceptance of the gifts was in accordance with federal regulations. He said, though, that he would make restitution for any gifts that are adjudged to be improper.

Justice Department sources have described some of the gifts as a \$200 walnut table, a \$250 clock and a \$250 lounge chair. However, FBI sources said yesterday that purchase receipts showed the table cost \$95, the chair \$105 and the clock \$83.48.

Each of the top executives was assessed a share of the cost.

Last Christmas, one FBI official recalled, Kelley gave each of his key aides a tie. "You might say he came out on the short end of the stick because it cost him more for the ties he gave them than it cost each of them to chip in for his gift," the official remarked.