

Stolen FBI Reports Sent To McGovern, Rep. Mitchell

3/23/71
By Ken W. Clawson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Stolen FBI intelligence files relating mostly to peace and black activist groups turned up yesterday in the hands of Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) and Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.).

Both legislators immediately turned over the documents to the FBI, but Mitchell did so with the charge that some of the investigation and surveillance conducted by the FBI were "equally criminal. . ." as the March 8 burglary of the Bureau's Media, Pa., office.

A spokesman for Attorney General John N. Mitchell said last night that the attorney general was "very concerned" about the records theft and the "possible ramifications of the public disclosure of the information contained in the files."

He added that the attorney general neither confirms or

denys reports that the files show the FBI has disregarded civil liberties and invaded privacy in its investigations.

The documents were sent to McGovern and Mitchell by a group that called itself the Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI.

Placed on Porch

An aide to Congressman Mitchell said the packet of documents, which was placed on the front porch of Mitchell's Baltimore residence, contained about 35 memos, reports and other internal papers.

"Anything not in keeping with the establishment was subject to investigation," the aide said. "One of the memos even makes reference to a black economic development project in the Philadelphia area."

Included were Black Panther documents and intelligence reports on peace and student groups opposing involvement in Southeast Asia, the aide said.

Rep. Mitchell would not detail individuals or groups mentioned in the reports, but he said that Maryland State College and the University of Maryland's Eastern Shore campuses were both named.

Rep. Mitchell and Sen. McGovern said they turned over the packet of documents, reproduced from the originals, to the FBI because they were obtained in a burglary. Rep. Mitchell added that he did so also because of the climate of wiretaps and the "military invasion of peoples' lives."

Arrives in Mail

McGovern said he refused to be associated with "this illegal action by a private group." He said he favors a full congressional investigation of the FBI administration but that the burglary undermines "reasonable and constructive efforts to secure appropriate public review" of the bureau.

McGovern received his documents in the afternoon mail at his Capitol Hill office. A McGovern aide said he be-

lieved the brown envelope contained a Princeton, N.J., postmark.

The aide said he was not familiar with the Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI. But in a covering letter in which the group admitted the burglary, it also said it would make public in about a week a list of those to whom they sent the stolen files.

The letter said the documents were sent to McGovern because he had shown "concern and courage" in recent attacks on FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The FBI refused all comment on the incidents.