

AM-JFK-FORD 1-18

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CONGRESSMAN GERALD FORD VOLUNTARILY BECAME FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER'S INFORMATION PIPELINE INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, FBI DOCUMENTS DISCLOSED WEDNESDAY.

WHILE HOOVER, IN AGENCY MEMOS, DID NOT HIDE HIS SUSPICION CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN WAS LEAKING DETAILS OF FBI REPORTS TO THE MEDIA, THE DIRECTOR HIMSELF KEPT TABS ON WARREN'S PANEL THROUGH FORD.

FORD, WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS THE ONLY MINORITY MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, WAS IN TOUCH WITH TOP HOOVER AIDE CARINA D. DELGACH ONLY DAYS AFTER THE PANEL STARTED ITS INVESTIGATION OF JOHN KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION, ACCORDING TO RAW FBI FILES.

DELGACH REPORTED TO HOOVER ON DEC. 12, 1963 FORD HAD CONFIDED HIS MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE WAY WARREN WAS RUNNING THE COMMISSION.

FORD WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WARREN WAS "ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A 'ONE MAN COMMISSION' BY APPOINTING A CHIEF COUNSEL, WARREN CLNEY, THAT WAS HIS OWN PROTEGE," DELGACH REPORTED.

HOOVER BLOCKED CLNEY'S APPOINTMENT AND FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL J. LEE FANKIN WAS SELECTED AS CHIEF COUNSEL.

DELGACH SAID "FORD INDICATED HE WOULD KEEP ME THOROUGHLY ADVISED AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION ... ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS."

HE ADDED "WE HAVE HAD EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH CONGRESSMAN FORD FOR MANY YEARS" AND NOTED "HE HAS BEEN GIVEN AN AUTOGRAPHED COPY OF THE DIRECTOR'S BOOK, 'A STUDY OF COMMUNISM,' AND HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MY OFFICE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN THE PAST."

"CONTACT WILL BE MAINTAINED WITH CONGRESSMAN FORD," DELGACH SAID. HOOVER NOTED ON THE MEMO "WELL HANDLED."

A FEW DAYS LATER, DELGACH MET AGAIN WITH FORD WHO TOLD HIM THE COMMISSION HAD DISCUSSED LEAKS OF THE PRELIMINARY FBI REPORT BUT, "THERE WERE NO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY ANY ONE, INCLUDING THE CHIEF JUSTICE, THAT THE FBI HAD LEAKED PORTIONS OF THIS REPORT."

DELGACH INDICATED TO FORD THE FBI LEADERSHIP SUSPECTED WARREN HIMSELF WAS THE LEAKER.

HOOVER APPROVED LENDING FORD ONE OF ITS AGENTS' BRIFCASES WITH A LOCK SO THE THEN-CONGRESSMAN COULD TAKE THE CONFIDENTIAL FBI REPORT HOME TO MICHIGAN FOR CHRISTMAS.

FORD HIMSELF, RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS THAT HE HAD LEAKED INFORMATION FROM LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S DIARY TO A DALLAS NEWSPAPER, ASKED THE FBI TO INTERVIEW HIM SO HE COULD DENY THE ALLEGATIONS. HE WAS THE ONLY COMMISSION MEMBER INTERVIEWED IN AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH FOR THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK.

THE FBI CONCLUDED FORD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE LEAK AND THAT ITS SOURCE WAS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN DALLAS.

UPI 01-18 05:42 PES