

FBI has right to conduct special investigations for president

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Attorney General Meese's explanation of the FBI's failure to immediately conduct an investigation of the Reagan administration's effort to bribe the Iranian government with arms and of its illegal, clandestine transfer of the incredible profits from these deals to the Nicaraguan Contras is that he and the FBI director (who is a former federal judge) conferred and decided that it is improper for the FBI to conduct other than criminal investigations, or investigations of specific federal crimes.

Mr. Meese's representation is not true. The FBI, among other well-known authorities, has the right and obligation to conduct special investigations for the man who, if we are to believe him, wants most of all to

get and give the people all the facts, Ronald Reagan.

It is hard to believe that both the attorney general and FBI director do not know that the president could have requested this investigation, and it is impossible to believe that neither knew how commonplace non-criminal investigations by the FBI are. Its investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy was file classified under "administrative inquiry," for which the FBI's file number is 62. Of the several hundred FBI file classification numbers the very first is certainly without involvement in federal crimes: "1. Training Schools. . . ."

And it is during the period in which the FBI failed to investigate and preserve evidence that the White House paper-shredders were used to destroy records required in any investigation.

HAROLD WEISBERG
Frederick