

## Justice Official Defends Border Unit Probe

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Deputy Attorney General Laurence H. Silberman yesterday rejected charges that the Justice Department didn't fully investigate alleged corruption in the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

A House Government operations subcommittee went into closed session to hear Silberman and several aides explain why most of the 321 cases of alleged official misconduct uncovered during "Operation Clean Sweep" resulted in no indictments or administrative sanctions.

The subcommittee has been investigating why Clean Sweep apparently fizzled out in late 1973, despite a widely publicized 15-month investigation and reports of widespread

sale of immigration documents and illegal admissions of aliens by border officials in the INS Southwest region.

Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.) emerged saying he was "totally dissatisfied" with Silberman's explanation.

Before the panel voted to close the session to the public, Chairman William J. Randall (D-Mo.) said in a prepared statement that his subcommittee had "learned of alarming allegations" about the Justice Department's follow-up investigation of Clean Sweep, which was reopened last July as a result of pressure from the subcommittee.

Randall said there were reports of "witnesses not being permitted to testify fully and openly" and allegations "of witnesses not being called who appeared logical to call" dur-

ing recent grand jury proceedings in Arizona and California.

"The allegations you refer to," Silberman replied, "I find after careful review to be false."

The committee then voted unanimously to go into secret session so that Silberman could discuss why no action was taken in specific cases.

Following the morning session, Ryan said Silberman "spent most of his time trying to discredit one witness. He didn't answer the questions at all."

The witness was identified as Alan Murray, the former INS investigator who assembled the 1972 case against border inspector Frank Paul Castro, who was convicted of selling immigration documents. The Castro case led to Operation Clean Sweep.

Privately, Justice officials say Murray is unreliable, and blame him exclusively for the allegations of a cover-up. Murray is known to have presented evidence to the subcommittee. Other law enforcement officials said Murray has an excellent reputation as an investigator.

At the close of the hearing, Randall said Silberman's testimony "resolved some of our doubts," though "in a few areas, some doubts remain."