

# Clark Got Report On Gallagher in '67, Life Magazine Says

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Life magazine said yesterday that Attorney General Ramsey Clark was told last year of alleged ties between Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher (D-N.J.) and mob-controlled gambling operations in New Jersey.

In a postscript to its charges that Gallagher was a "tool" of Mafia ganglord Joe (Joe Bayonne) Zicarelli, the magazine said Clark was given the information by an unidentified "Federal law enforcement agency."

A Justice Department spokesman said the Attorney General would have no immediate comment.

In Chicago, where he is a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, Gallagher reiterated his denial of Life's charges and said he was "in the process of preparing legal action" against the magazine.

"Obviously they have collected a great deal of malicious gossip about me," Gallagher said. "I am afraid there is a new sickness in the political air."

Life said the Federal agency that submitted the report to Clark cited "reliable, confidential sources."

The magazine said the report quoted these sources as saying that Zicarelli had gotten Gallagher to help squelch a police crackdown on gambling operations in Bayonne.

The Federal agency, Life said, also told the Attorney General "that it had been informed by a member of the Bayonne police department in 1961 that Bayonne was a wide-open gambling town controlled by Gallagher through a gambler and certain local officials."

Gallagher protested that he was being made the victim of

"poison-pen letters or malicious political rumors of seven and eight years ago when Bayonne was in a tremendous political turmoil and all sorts of stories were making the rounds."

Meanwhile, other sources reported that the FBI warned President Johnson in 1964 of links between Gallagher and underworld figures.

Gallagher had been under consideration by the President as one of several possible running mates—a factor that was said to have prompted the memo to the White House.

The FBI was understood to have stumbled onto the Congressman's name during a 1960 wiretapping check into Mafia activities in the Dominican Republic. By one account, the report to the White House also touched on Gallagher's alleged involvement in protection of Zicarelli's gambling activities.

In its first article on Gallagher, Life quoted liberally from what were said to have been telephone conversations between Gallagher and Zicarelli in 1960 about a police crackdown on the gambling operations.

At a news conference Aug. 14, Attorney General Clark, choosing his words carefully, said he had been "advised" by the FBI "that quotes used in the magazine do not appear in any FBI surveillance logs, and that therefore they could not have emanated from the FBI."

The Justice Department has not said whether it or the FBI was aware of the substance of the charges. Gallagher said: "If there were such rumors, I would assume they were followed up and found not to be true."

In a statement issued last night, the Congressman pointedly added that he was confident William G. Hundley, former head of the Justice Department's Organized Crime Unit under the late Robert F. Kennedy, "would have done his duty" if any of the Allegations had been true. Gallagher noted that Hundley, an attorney, "now works for Life."