

Hill Unit to Probe Teamsters

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Associated Press

A Senate subcommittee has decided to investigate the Teamsters union and its alleged connections with organized crime, according to Sen. Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.), who urged a comprehensive probe "to delve into many troubling and unanswered questions."

The investigation would be the first close congressional look at Teamsters affairs since hearings conducted by Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), which pitted then union boss James R. Hoffa against the late Robert F. Kennedy, then a Senate counsel, in the 1950s.

The decision to conduct the heels of a series of sto-

the investigation comes onries by NBC News in which the network reported a meeting between underworld figures and Hoffa's successor, Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons, allegedly to discuss several kickback schemes.

The network also reported Friday night that federal law enforcement officials have seemed reluctant to pursue investigations involving Teamster officials in recent years.

The Justice Department is currently investigating the disappearance of Hoffa, who vanished July 30 and is believed dead. Labor Department officials are reported to be looking at Teamsters pension plans.

Concerning the new probe by the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee, NBC said: "Sources said this could be the first step in putting together an investigation similar to the one conducted by the McClelland Senate Labor Rackets Committee in the 1950s."

Griffin said in a statement Friday night: "I am very pleased to learn that the subcommittee intends to undertake an investigation of the Teamster union, including allegations of associations with organized crime."

"I trust it will be a comprehensive investigation with sufficient staff and adequate funds to delve deeply into many troubling and unanswered questions."

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