

Cocaine, Barbituates, Marijuana Cited

Post 12-8-74

## Playboy's Hefner Said Target of Drug Probe

CHICAGO, Dec. 7 (AP)—Hugh Hefner, publisher of Playboy magazine, is a prime target of a federal narcotics investigation, The Chicago Tribune said in its Sunday editions.

The newspaper said it had learned that the investigation centers on Playboy Enterprises, a Hefner-controlled \$200 million international empire of clubs and hotels.

"The year-long investigation

centers on suspected illicit drug activities inside Hefner's Playboy mansions in Chicago and Beverly Hills, Calif., plus an apparent attempt by Hefner himself to cover up these activities from federal scrutiny," the Tribune said.

Hefner was not available for comment on the newspaper's story.

Aides of U.S. Attorney James Thompson and Jerry Jenson, regional director of the Drug Enforcement Administration, said they had no comment.

The Tribune quoted Lee Gottlieb, Playboy public relations director, as saying: "This is the first I have heard of it. Mr. Hefner is not familiar" with the investigation "and has nothing to say."

The Tribune said word of the investigation became known recently when several present and former Playboy employees were subpoenaed to testify later this month before a federal grand jury in Chicago.

"They told acquaintances of the action and began contacting lawyers," the newspaper said. "... Findings believed to be in the hands of DEA investigators detail the concealment and use in the two mansions of cocaine, barbiturates and marijuana by some guests

and employees," the Tribune said.

"... Investigators theorize such drugs may have been dispensed among preferred mansion guests and certain employees in return for their patronage and services."