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F.B.I. Deficiencies

To the Editor:

There are many other things wrong with the F.B.I. not included in the list of deficiencies noted by Tom Wicker in his Aug. 3 column.

The F.B.I. continues to be outside the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission. President Roosevelt named J. Edgar Hoover on that one day last year ago. Congressional appropriations committees wrote into permanent law the F.B.I.'s exemption from the standards of hiring of the G.A.C. This exemption is one of the reasons why there are so few blacks on various levels of the F.B.I. staff.

The F.B.I. is in arrears by nine months and 8,000 requests under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts. A hearing on this matter and a special visit to the F.B.I. files by a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee revealed a combination of reluctance and ineptitude that has caused widespread violations by the F.B.I. of the ten-day limit under the F.O.I.A. for responding to inquiries in routine cases and the ceiling of twenty days for complicated cases.

At my insistence, the F.B.I. will, before the end of August, submit to this subcommittee a plan to bring the F.B.I. up-to-date in fulfilling the requests of any of the 6.5 million Americans on whom the F.B.I. has a file unrelated to alleged criminal activities or to spy Federal operations.

ROBERT F. DRINAN
Member of Congress, 4th Dist., Mass.
Washington, Aug. 3, 1976