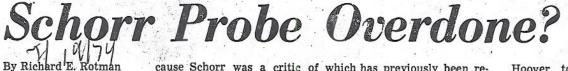
FBI Check on Newsman Called Unintended



Washington Post Staff Writer

Former White House aide Lawrence Higby ordered the know why he was being inves-FBI to compile a background report on CBS-TV newsman Daniel Schorr in August 1971, according to testimony re yesterday. He never did find leased by the House Judiciary out whether Schorr was being Committee yesterday.

But the testimony indicated the FBI went beyond a background check-a simple siftincludes interviews of an indi-

diciary ... Committee "complete background" days later that the FBI had math of Watergate. launched a full investigation of "the poor guy," he said.

cause Schorr was a critic of which has previously been rethe administration.

After Schorr demanded to tigated, Higby canceled the order for an investigation, according to documents released considered for a job, he told the committee staff.

Schorr himself released a sheaf of documents yesterday to conicide with publication of ing of its files-and began a the House committee's report. full field investigation, which Obtained under the Freedom vidual's business associates, nal administration and FBI friends and sometimes family. memos indicate that such In an interview with the Ju- "background checks" of newsstaff, persons were routine practice Higby said he ordered a when H. R. (Bob) Haldeman on was White House chief of staff Schorr. He discovered a few before resigning in the after-

One FBI memo, which lays blame for the mixup on the When the investigation be- White House rather than the came publicly known, adminis- FBI as Higby did, says that tration officials said Schorr someone there "got their sig-was being considered for a nals mixed" and that "all they government job-a claim that wanted was background inforaroused widespread doubts be- mation . . . similar to that

quested by Haldeman's office 'FBI men he had responded on other news personalities."

Schorr's file also contains a Nov. 10, 1971 memo from the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to other FBI of ficials that contains a reference to Ken W. Clawson, then a reporter who had broken the Schorr investigation story for The Washington Post and now the administration's communications director.

The memo says Haldeman pressed Hoover to deny Clawson's claim that the bureau had confirmed the FBI's role in the investigation.

Hoover told his fellow by saying he doubted Clawson really had such confirmation because orders "are to not give Clawson the time of day."

Haldeman than asked the director to "be sure we did not supply Clawson or any of the rest of the press with anything," the memo says.

Schorr said yesterday that he obtained the FBI files because Attorney General William Saxbe ruled that the material should be made available as "a matter of administrative discretion." Schorr's request was originally denied by FBI director Clarence Kelley.