

Thompson denies custody rumor

Where is Skolnick?

UNITED STATES Atty. James R. Thompson today squelched rumors that he may be holding missing legal researcher Sherman Skolnick in protective custody.

Thompson told CHICAGO TODAY he does not know where Skolnick is.

Leland Cole, Skolnick's chief aide, said he went to Thompson's office yesterday to ask Thompson about Skolnick's disappearance.

"A man alleged to be Thompson said to me: 'Oh,

you're one of Skolnick's guys; I don't want to talk to you,'" Cole said.

When asked about the visit, Thompson said he had not talked to Cole.

Thompson's name was brought into the mystery because two weeks ago Skolnick received a death threat that apparently emanated from the Federal Building.

COLE SAID a newspaper reporter in the Civic Center heard about the threat from a colleague in the Federal Building.

"Shermar was informed about the threat, but he just shrugged it off," Cole said.

SKOLNICK — DISAPPEARED Monday at the time he said he was to meet a man about the bugging of the Democratic headquarters in Washington's Watergate complex last June.

He carried files that purportedly linked former U. S. Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, a Republican, and a \$300,000 slush fund.