

Ervin Panel Shelves Document

Sullivan Memo Cites FDR, LBJ Use of FBI

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Written allegations by a former FBI assistant director that both Presidents Roosevelt and Johnson used federal investigators against political opponents will not be disclosed by the select Senate Watergate committee because they are "far, far too personal" and are unsubstantiated, the committee's deputy counsel said yesterday.

Rufus L. Edmisten, the deputy counsel, confirmed the existence of a memo written by former FBI Assistant Director William C. Sullivan that alleges that Roosevelt asked the FBI to call off investigations of political allies and to make inquiries about the private lives of enemies.

But Edmisten said the memo will not be used as a basis of inquiry by the committee because it "contains personal cheap shots" based on undocumented recollections of Sullivan, and generally is "rather distasteful."

"We don't think it serves any useful purpose. It's not based on any established facts," said Edmisten.

The Sullivan memo, according to Time magazine, said Roosevelt asked the agency to intervene in a probe of his Under Secretary of State, Sumner Welles, who had been suspected of homosexual activity.

The memo also reportedly accused Roosevelt of asking the FBI to "dig up dirt" on enemies, and charged that Eleanor Roosevelt made "some unusual requests" of the bureau.

The document also claims that President Johnson sought FBI information about Democratic senators who opposed him, and during the 1964 and 1968 Democratic national conventions set up a special FBI intelligence squad for his personal use.

The Sullivan memo, according to Time, also accuses Johnson of interven-

ing in behalf of presidential aide Walter Jenkins when Jenkins was arrested in Washington in 1964 in a homosexual incident. One such request involved an attempt to have the FBI trace any possible connections between the man discovered with Jenkins and two members of the Republican National Committee, according to the magazine.

Sullivan could not be reached yesterday.

The document in question was turned over to the 27 by former White House

Dean has told the committee that when President Nixon learned the FBI had conducted political intelligence operations in Democratic administrations, he asked his chief counsel to obtain examples of those operations from Sullivan.

Sullivan, who was forced to resign from the FBI in October, 1971, after a policy feud with the late director, J. Edgar Hoover, sent the memorandum to Dean last February, according to committee sources. He had been with the FBI since August, 1941.

One segment of the memo surfaced in June, when it was disclosed that Sullivan had informed Dean that Johnson ordered the FBI to investigate Vice President Agnew's personal telephone calls during the 1968 campaign to determine whether Agnew could be leading information about secret Vietnam negotiations to a prominent Republican supporter, Anna Chennault.