

New FBI Chief Visits S.F. Office

By George Murphy

The abortive attempt to bug the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington is under "active investigation" by the FBI, the bureau's acting director said yesterday.

L. Patrick Gray III, 55, who took over as acting FBI chief last month, told a press conference at the bureau's San Francisco field office that "there is no question we have jurisdiction" in the case.

Federal law, he said "prohibits illegal interception of communications," and that applies to the amateurish efforts of five men who reportedly tried to install listening devices in the Democrats' headquarters in the capital.

Gray visited the San Francisco FBI office on a get-acquainted tour of bureau locations throughout the country.

"I intend to visit each and every field office — it's an educational process for me," the former submarine skipper said.

Gray was asked about a quotation attributed to him in a speech he made in Santa Ana last April 28 five days before he became acting director, which read:

"Today, journalists are becoming too much a part of the culture of disparagement which threatens to destroy all respect for established institutions."

MOYNIHAN

Gray said that he actually was quoting Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a former White House adviser.

"I want to make that clear, because that question

has come up before," Gray said.

But, he added, "it seems to me the strength of this country depends on a free press, reporting responsibly.

"And the prism through which some journalists have been looking has been stained.

"We need more objective, factual reporting, rather than subjective, factual reporting."

'FRAGILE'

Gray declared: "I believe our liberty, our democratic process, is a fragile thing, and it depends on an informed electorate, informed by a free and responsible press."

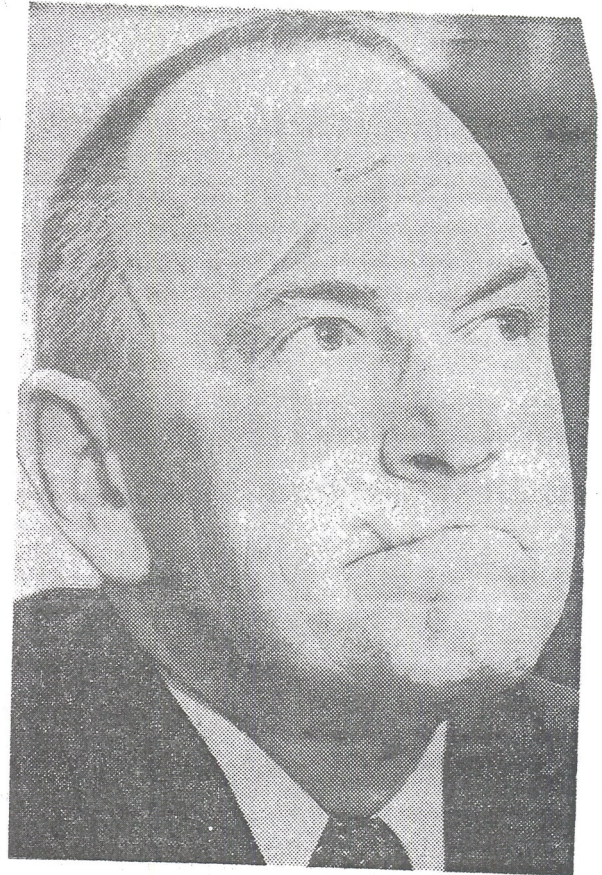
Gray declined comment on yesterday's United States Supreme Court ruling restricting wiretapping, saying he had not studied the decision.

But he did say "the Supreme Court is the law of the land, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will abide by it."

As to his confirmation as director — which President Nixon has delayed presenting to the Senate until after the November elections — Gray said: "No man in this country can run for this office.

"If you're asking if I enjoy working with the dedicated men and women of the FBI, the answer is an unequivocal 'yes.' But the decision as to whether I will stay on is completely the President's. I am not 'running' for the office."

The press conference lasted 18 minutes. Gray will visit the FBI's Sacramento field office today.



L. PATRICK GRAY III
Bugging is under probe