

Gray Hearing

FBI Warning in Watergate Case

Washington

L. Patrick Gray warned senators yesterday that they run the risk of drying up FBI sources if they continue to spread details of the Watergate investigation on the public record.

He also said he would have preferred that White House counsel John Dean III not be present while FBI agents interviewed White House personnel in the Watergate case but that he accepted because the information was needed.

Gray said the senators, members of the Judiciary Committee, had reached the point in his confirmation hearing for director of the FBI where "I may be impacting upon national security, constitutional due process and on what privacy as I respond to questions."

DIRECTOR

Gray, who has served as acting FBI director since May 3 last year, asked the committee's guidance "in order that matters of national security are not discussed in the public forum."

"People will talk to the FBI," he said. "The proof is here in this Watergate investigation. They will and they do. But information one-on-one with our agents at their own request but they will not come to us so if we come out with

this information on the public record."

FBI summaries submitted to the committee while it was in recess Monday showed that Dean sat in on interviews which the FBI had with White House personnel about the bugging of Democratic party headquarters at the Watergate last year.

"Our preference is to conduct interviews without attorneys present," Gray told the committee.

AIDE

At the White House, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said the White House staff "completely and thoroughly cooperated" with the FBI investigation.

Gray also told the committee more about circumstances surrounding a speech he made to the Cleveland City Club during last fall's political campaign.

The initial invitation to make the speech, he said, came from the White House.

Gray had told Chairman James O. Eastland (Dem.-Miss.) and Senator Robert C. Byrd (Dem.-W. Va.) last week that he had already received an invitation to address the club when a White House memorandum came suggesting he make the speech.

He contended the talk was nonpolitical, but senators said it was otherwise. Such

speeches were a major subject during the first two days of Gray's confirmation hearing.

In a document submitted to the Judiciary Committee yesterday, Gray said: "In checking our records, I find that the initial invitation from the Cleveland City Club was contained in the June 13, 1972, memorandum from Mr. O'Donnell."

He attached the memo from White House aide Patrick E. O'Donnell, which contained this sentence: "With Ohio being crucially vital to our hopes in November, we would hope you will assign this forum some priority in planning your schedule."

Associated Press

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SFC