

Nixon Worker Called on Carpet After Secret Meeting With FBI

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Within 48 hours of a supposedly confidential interview with the FBI, an employee of the Committee for the Re-election of the President was summoned by Nixon campaign officials to explain her actions, according to her own sworn affidavit.

The employee, originally interviewed by the FBI in the presence of a lawyer for the Nixon campaign organization, was one of three campaign employees who asked to be re-interviewed in secret.

According to acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III, reports of those three interviews were turned over only to President Nixon's White House counsel, John Wesley Dean

III. If Dean turned over such information to officials of the President's campaign organization, it would have been a serious breach of the confidentiality of FBI files, Gray has said in reference to another alleged breach of FBI files.

The affidavit was signed Friday night by Judith Hoback, the former assistant to the treasurer of the Committee for the re-election of the President. It was obtained by Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which now is considering President Nixon's nomination of Gray to be permanent director of the FBI.

Yesterday, members of the Senate Judiciary staff said they are "proceeding on the assumption that Dean turned the information over, unless

he tells us otherwise." The Committee will vote today on whether to ask Dean to appear as a witness in Gray's confirmation hearings.

Within 48 hours of an FBI interview she presumed to be secret, Mrs. Hoback said in her affidavit, she was called into the office of former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian, then political coordinator of the Nixon campaign. Also present, she said, were Fred LaRue, a former assistant to the President; Kenneth Wells Parkinson, the Nixon campaign organization's principal attorney, and Paul O'Brien, another attorney for the committee.

"I hear you have been talking to the FBI," Mrs. Hoback's affidavit says she was asked

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by Parkinson. She added in the sworn statement:

"To my knowledge I had not informed anyone of my interviews with the FBI and the interviews were in confidence and no one else knew."

In a telephone interview last night with The Washington Post, Mrs. Hoback said: "You do something in confidence and it shatters you a little to learn it's been broken."

She said that she had asked the FBI for the confidential interview away from the Nixon campaign offices because she had additional information she wished to supply, and did not want her employers to know she was the source of the information.

Mrs. Hoback, who is believed to have supplied the FBI with information concerning the disbursement of campaign funds that helped finance the Watergate break-in, would say only that her private FBI interview concerned questions not pursued during her appearance before the Watergate grand jury or in the initial FBI interview at Nixon campaign headquarters.

In her affidavit, Mrs. Ho-

back detailed the following sequence of events:

"In June of 1972, I was an assistant to the treasurer of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President. As a record custodian I was called before the grand jury in the early part of July, 1972. Approximately 10 days to two weeks later I voluntarily met with the FBI at my home in Bethesda, Md., for a confidential interview. About one week later I was contacted by the same agent and I met with one of the agents and Earl Sil-

bert (the chief prosecutor in the Watergate case) and an assistant to Mr. Silbert at the FBI field headquarters.

"Within 48 hours of the second interview, I was called into the office of Bob Mardian . . . Ken Parkinson said words to the effect of 'I hear you have been talking to the FBI.' The affidavit added:

"Mr. Parkinson apparently was not aware of the first (private) interview from the type of questions he asked, but was aware that I had been interviewed and stated he wanted

to be kept abreast of what the FBI wanted."

Mrs. Hoback told The Post that she knows of no reprisals taken against her by the Nixon committee for volunteering additional information to the FBI.

According to testimony by acting FBI director Gray, Mrs. Hoback was first interviewed by federal agents on June 23 and again on July 18. Senate Judiciary staff members said a third interview—the one in prosecutor Silbert's presence—followed that session.