

644 (b)

# Senate Panel Requests Voluminous Intelligence Files From F. B. I.

By JOHN M. CREWSDON  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 21—The Senate Select Committee investigating Federal intelligence activities has sent the Justice Department a request for intelligence files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and documents that department officials say is unprecedented in scope.

"They're asking for everything," one official said with only a hint of overstatement. "The best thing to do is just to invite them into the front office and say, 'Here's the file room.'"

A 20-page letter embodying the committee's sweeping request for classified materials was sent to Attorney General Edward H. Levi last Thursday following formal approval of the letter by the 11-member committee a day earlier. Mr. Levi then passed a copy to officials of the F. B. I., who began to study the demands.

The largest segment of the letter, the Justice Department official said, calls for the production of copies of reports, letters, internal memorandums and routing slips and myriad other documents relating to the agency's intelligence-gathering and counterintelligence operations.

In addition, he said, the letter contains requests for the bureau's documentation of a number of topics and incidents, such as the drafting of the Nixon Administration's plan for increased domestic surveillance, the F. B. I.'s wiretapping of Nixon Administration officials and reporters and its electronic surveillance of the late intelligence files, which often con-

tain unevaluated material and cases, entire pages carefully blacked out by the Justice Department.

The dilemma he now faces concerns the extent to which the department should make such documents available to a Congressional committee that is investigating possible abuses of individual privacy by Federal intelligence agencies.

Several officials said today that although discussions were continuing between the F. B. I. and the department on a prospective response to the Senate, no firm decisions had been reached either to withhold or to submit any of the materials named.

**Had Feared Leaks**

The Attorney General has in the past, however, implied that he had doubts about the ability of Congressional committees to keep such information from becoming public. He recently has declined to make bureau intelligence files available to investigators for a House subcommittee that is conducting a narrower inquiry into the F. B. I.'s operations.

While there is some debate over precisely what constitutes "raw" F. B. I. files, one Justice Department official said that to provide the requested materials would jeopardize some of the bureau's informants—an explanation that the F. B. I. has traditionally given in denying access to such information.

Hundreds of documents generated by the Bureau's bountiful intelligence programs, known collectively as Comint, have been released in recent months to individuals questioning them under the Freedom of Information Act. Bill Levy, a former F. B. I. employee, said today that his parents' investigation would begin very shortly.

Representative Eugene N. Nadzi, Democrat of Michigan, who is chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, said today that his parents' investigation would begin very shortly.

Mr. Levi has previously recommended that the bureau's classified intelligence files be made available on a sample basis, even on a Congressional request.

The Senate committee's formal request, it is felt, may signal the beginning of a major confrontation between Congress and the executive branch on the issue of access.

The F. B. I.'s files have been opened on a selective basis in the east to members of Congress, as when representatives of the Senate Judiciary Committee were permitted to view the results of the bureau's Watergate investigation during their hearings in 1973 on the nomination of L. Patrick Gray 3d as F. B. I. director.

**Requests From Reasons**

Moreover, the bureau has in recent months received requests from individuals under the Freedom of Information Act for substantial quantities of bureau documents.

But the Justice Department official emphasized that there was no question that the committee's request amounted to the broadest demand for classified materials since the F. B. I. was set up 67 years ago by Charles J. Bonaparte, Theodore Roosevelt's Attorney General and a granamophone of Napoleon.

The issue with which Mr. Levi is concerned is the extent to which the privacy of individuals, in such intelligence files, which often con-

tain unevaluated material and cases, entire pages carefully blacked out by the Justice Department.

The dilemma he now faces concerns the extent to which the department should make such documents available to a Congressional committee that is investigating possible abuses of individual privacy by Federal intelligence agencies.

Several officials said today that although discussions were continuing between the F. B. I. and the department on a prospective response to the Senate, no firm decisions had been reached either to withhold or to submit any of the materials named.

**Had Feared Leaks**

The Attorney General has in the past, however, implied that he had doubts about the ability of Congressional committees to keep such information from becoming public. He recently has declined to make bureau intelligence files available to investigators for a House subcommittee that is conducting a narrower inquiry into the F. B. I.'s operations.

While there is some debate over precisely what constitutes "raw" F. B. I. files, one Justice Department official said that to provide the requested materials would jeopardize some of the bureau's informants—an explanation that the F. B. I. has traditionally given in denying access to such information.