

FBI Chief's

Disclosure on Burglaries

Washington

FBI director Clarence M. Kelley disclosed yesterday that his agency continued to engage in "national security" burglaries after 1966—the year in which former President Nixon said such activities ended.

Kelley's comments were the first FBI confirmation that the bureau has engaged in what FBI agents privately have called their "black-back" jobs.

The practice extends at least as far back as World War II, according to Kelley, who spoke at a press conference marking the end of his second year as director of the FBI.

Asked if any of the FBI break-ins involved foreign embassies here, Kelley said:

"Without naming or designating victims or institutions, I can only say there were a few concerned with counterintelligence, foreign in nature, subsequent to 1966."

At an August, 1973, press conference, then-President Nixon said that national security burglaries were "authorized on a very large scale" during the Kennedy administration "and the three Johnson years through 1966."

Kelley said most of the burglaries ceased after 1966 because J. Edgar Hoover

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felt that in the context of changing times, they were "not a viable procedure."

Kelley said he has not received "a single request" to approve an FBI break-in. If he were to receive one and it involved "a matter of grave concern," he continued, "I

would present it to the attorney general and be guided by his opinion as to such activities."

Kelley declined to disclose the number of FBI burglaries or to say when the most recent occurred. But he said all FBI records of these cases and all documents relating to allegations

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of past FBI abuses will be in the Justice Department's possession within ten days for forwarding to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities.

Last week the committee called on Attorney General Edward H. Levi and Kelley to explain why they have failed to produce documents the committee requested two months ago.

Levi and Kelley are to meet with the committee tomorrow in executive session.

Levi also has scheduled a meeting with the committee chairman, Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho), and is prepared to tell him that "disclosure will be almost total under controlled access," according to Justice Department spokesman Robert J. Havel.

In responding to allegations about past FBI abuses Kelley denied that he has tried to protect the image of the late J. Edgar Hoover, who headed the bureau for almost 50 years.

Kelley said his policy has been to be "completely candid and forthright."

On other matters, Kelley said that:

- Some FBI Cointelpro (counterintelligence programs that Hoover terminated in 1971) were "imprudent," especially in light of changing standards of law enforcement conduct.

- The FBI still compiles "personal behavior" information, including sex and drinking habits, of reporters and government officials, including members of Congress.

- He is prepared to resign as director if he finds that his frequent absences from Washington for trips to Kansas City to visit his wife,

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AP Wirephoto

CLARENCE KELLEY
Break-ins after 1966

who is seriously ill, would "endanger my administrative control" of the FBI.

Defending national security burglaries and other alleged FBI abuses, Kelley said, "I am convinced that in these matters where there might be some criticism there is an underlying intent to do that which is good for the nation. I have not come across any activities which I would construe as being illegal or being directed toward personal gain or to enhance the personal reputation of anyone."

Kelley said the FBI and the Justice Department are now drawing guidelines to cover the bureau's collection of "personal behavior" information in cases that do not involve criminal investigations.

Some personal information "might very well be helpful to us in later investigations," Kelley said, adding that he knows of no "rank abuse" by the FBI in using such information.

"I have not reviewed files to find out about reporters, Congressmen or other public figures," he said. "I do not subscribe to that type of thing."

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