

F. B. I. IS ACCUSED OF POLITICAL ACTS FOR 6 PRESIDENTS

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Senate Intelligence Inquiry
Cites Secret Dossiers,
Taps and Surveillance

ROOSEVELT TO NIXON

Robert Kennedy Is Linked
to Checks on Newsmen
—Johnson Also Named

NYTimes

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—The Federal Bureau of Investigation supplied secret dossiers, conducted wiretaps and carried out physical surveillance for "political" purposes at the behest of all six Presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Richard M. Nixon, the staff of a Senate committee charged today.

In a 16-page report based on documents from F.B.I. files and testimony of former officials and other witnesses, the staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence reported the following:

¶Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy authorized F.B.I. wiretaps on correspondents of The New York Times and Newsweek magazine in the early 1960's in an effort to discover leaks of information.

¶Mr. Kennedy authorized F.B.I. wiretaps on six American citizens, including officials of a domestic Government agency, a Congressional staff member and two registered lobbyists for foreign interests, in an investigation of efforts by "foreign interests to influence United States economic policies."

¶The F.B.I. supplied to President Johnson materials from its files on seven newsmen. The report named three of them as David Brinkley of NBC, Peter Arnett of The Associated Press and the columnist, Joseph Kraft. Committee sources said that the agency also gave the White House information on Peter Lisagor of The Chicago Daily News and John Chancellor of NBC. The names of the two other newsmen were not disclosed.

The staff report also confirmed news reports of an effort by President Johnson to obtain background information on Senator Barry Goldwater's staff in 1964, when Mr. Goldwater was the Republican Presidential nominee. It said that Presidents Roosevelt and Johnson had asked the bureau to check the backgrounds of persons who wrote to the White House opposing their foreign policy decisions.

The report came in the second phase of committee hearings on the F.B.I. At today's session the committee made public a series of memorandums that made it appear that former Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach was aware of an electronic bug's being planted in the room of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in

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a New York hotel in 1965.

In the three memorandums, signed by the F.B.I. director, J. Edgar Hoover, and directed to Mr. Katzenbach, it was noted that the bureau had installed an electronic bug in hotel rooms occupied by Dr. King on three different occasions. Each memorandum noted that "this surveillance involved trespass."

3 Hotels Listed

The hotels, all in New York City, were the Sheraton Atlantic, 34th Street and Broadway, on May 12, 1965; The Astor Hotel, at 44th Street and Broadway, on Oct. 14, 1965, and the Americana Hotel, on Sixth Avenue, on Nov. 29, 1965.

Mr. Katzenbach said in testimony that he could not recall ever having received the memorandums although each carries what appear to be his initials in his handwriting. He declined to charge that his initials had been forged on the documents and said that, considering their content, he should have remembered them.

The three room bugs were placed as part of a pattern of surveillance of Dr. King that included 16 room bugs, all in hotel rooms during 1964 and 1965, and eight wiretaps.

Mr. Katzenbach, in a 63-page prepared statement, said that on March 30, 1965, he and Mr. Hoover agreed that the bureau should obtain prior authorization for the installation of electronic bugs. The regulations, he said, "required the bureau to treat bugs and tap in the same way, that is, to secure prior written approval of the Attorney General, in each instance."

"I also dictated the bureau to notify me whenever an approved device had been discontinued, and seek my approval on any device which had been in existence six months, and to seek a renewed approval every six months thereafter," he said.

Installation of 5 Bugs

According to F.B.I. records, the committee staff said, the F.B.I. installed five room bugs on Dr. King, after the March 30 order. It was unclear if the bureau sought or Mr. Katzenbach issued approval for these installations.

Mr. Katzenbach said that he had ordered one wiretap on Dr. King's Atlanta home discontinued but he "may have" approved the continuation of a telephone tap on the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which Dr. King headed.

In connection with "political abuse" of the F.B.I. and its political activities, the committee report said, the "F.B.I. intelligence system developed to a point where no one inside or outside the bureau was willing or able to tell the difference between legitimate national security or law enforcement information and purely political intelligence."

As early as 1940, the report said, the F.B.I. ran name checks (checks of its records), opened files and made reports on "hundreds of persons who sent telegrams to the President that were 'all more or less in opposition to national defense,' or that expressed approval of Col. Charles Lindbergh's criticism of the President." Colonel Lindbergh was active in the isolationist movement that opposed any move to involve the United States in the war then going on in Europe.

There were similar incidents involving the mixing of political and national security matters in the Truman and Eisenhower Administrations according to the report. In 1949, for instance, the F.B.I. investigated the National Lawyers Guild, which was denouncing F.B.I. activities. The then Attorney General, J. Howard McGrath, passed this information on the President Truman, the report said.

In the Kennedy Administration, the report said, the F.B.I. was sent to interview a steel company executive and several newsmen. This too had been reported in the press.

The staff report said that in 1962 Attorney General Kennedy authorized wiretaps be placed on Hanson W. Baldwin, military affairs editor of The New York Times, and his secretary. They lasted for about one month, the report said. Mr. Baldwin, now retired, was unavailable for comment.

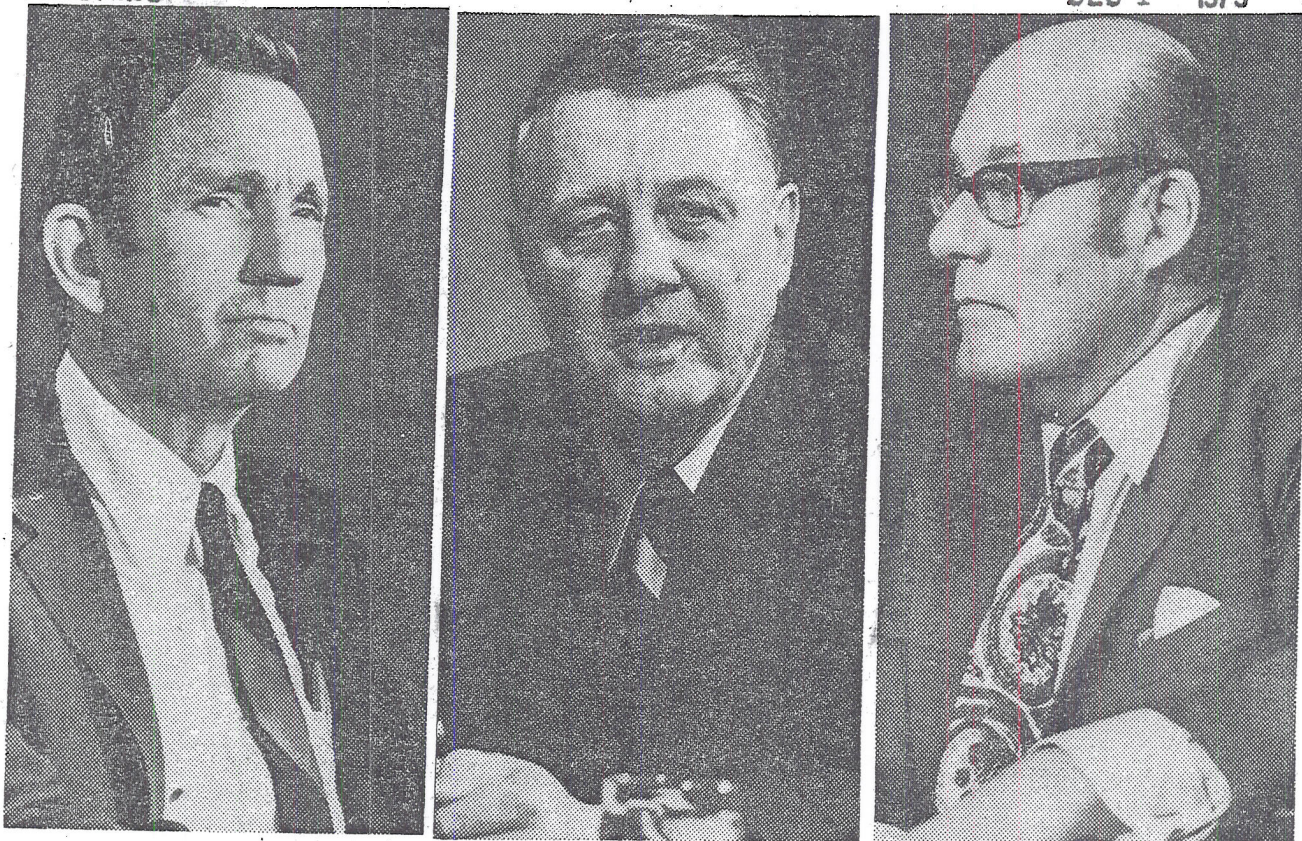
Purpose of Wiretaps

The report said that the taps had been placed to discover his news sources in an attempt to plug Administration leaks of information.

A year earlier, the report said, Mr. Kennedy authorized a telephone tap on a Newsweek magazine reporter. The report did not name the reporter. A spokesman for Newsweek said the reporter might have been Lloyd Norman, its veteran Pentagon correspondent, who angered the Kennedy Administration by his disclosures in coverage of the crisis over the Berlin Wall in 1961. Mr. Norman was unavailable for comment.

The report said that Mr. Kennedy had also ordered wiretaps on officials of the executive branch, lobbyists and a Congressional aide. The aide's telephone was tapped at his home and not in his Capitol Hill office, according to the report.

President Johnson appeared to have been an active user of the F.B.I., mainly through Carla D. DeLoach, then an assistant director.



The New York Times/George Tames
Former Attorneys General Ramsey Clark, left, and Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, right, and Cartha D. DeLoach, former assistant to F.B.I. Director, J. Edgar Hoover, testifying yesterday before Senate panel on intelligence.