

HOUSE UNIT SEEKS INQUIRY INTO F.B.I.

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Bureau Is Said to Interfere
in Investigation of Markups
in Equipment Purchases

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 (AP)

A select House Intelligence Committee investigator said today that there was evidence that the Federal Bureau of Investigation "may be attempting to retaliate against or squelch" an investigation of possible F.B.I. purchasing improprieties.

The committee's staff director, A. Searle Field, made the charge in a letter to Attorney General Edward H. Levi and asked for an investigation. The bureau denied the allegation.

Mr. Field said that an important witness, after being interviewed by F.B.I. agents for six hours, disavowed a statement the committee had attributed to him.

The witness, Martin L. Kaiser, has testified among other things that wiretap equipment he sold to a purchasing company was marked up 30 percent by the company, the U. S. Recording Company, before it was resold to the bureau.

Mr. Field said in his letter to Mr. Levi that the committee as a result of that testimony was investigating "possible improprieties in the purchase of wiretap equipment by the F.B.I."

"We have as a result of our investigation determined that U.S. Recording added substantial markup to the price of this equipment, often without providing any services aside from paperwork," Mr. Field told Mr. Levi. "We have also established a close relationship between the president of U.S. Recording and the F.B.I. official in charge of purchasing until 1972."

Attached to the letter was a statement Mr. Kaiser had written in longhand, signed by himself and the two F.B.I. agents, stating that he had told the committee that a statement it had prepared for him "is grossly inaccurate."

Intimidation Charged

Mr. Kaiser's longhand statement also said that he had seen only one bill that marked up wiretap equipment 30 percent by U.S. Recording before it was resold to the F.B.I.

Later, the committee released the transcript of a deposition in which Mr. Kaiser asserted that he had been intimidated by the two agents. It quotes Mr. Kaiser as saying that at the end of the six hours "I had the two of them standing behind me now, over my shoulder, and this was the close of the day, the close of the statement and they kept pressuring me."

A spokesman for the bureau said that the agency was investigating Mr. Kaiser's testimony of high markups by U.S. Recording and continuing its investigation of the allegation that a former high F.B.I. official, John P. Mohr, had a close relationship with the president of the company.

"The second thing, about the agents trying to con him or get him to his change his testimony, we categorically deny," the spokesman said.

He said that Mr. Kaiser had voluntarily submitted the statement and that the agents did not suggest in any way what he should say in it.

Repudiation Is Reported

Mr. Field said in the letter to the Attorney General that Mr. Kaiser was subjected to a six-hour examination and given a statement to sign under some duress" and that Mr. Kaiser "now repudiates that statement."

Mr. Field also told the Attorney General that the two agents had made allegations to Mr. Kaiser about the Kouse committee's motives that "may well be unlawful influence or tampering with a Congressional witness."

Mr. Field's letter identified the two agents only as "Keehan and Rinaca." Mr. Kaiser's statement identified them as Robert P. Keehan and Dewey Leroy Rinaca.

Mr. Field asked Mr. Levi or any other appropriate Justice Department official to "inform this committee within 72 hours of the purpose of agents Keehan and Rinaca's examination of Mr. Kaiser on Dec. 23, 1975."

"We expect to be informed as to whether this committee has become the target of an F.B.I. investigation, the basis for statements made to our witness about the committee and its staff and on what grounds our activities are being investigated," the letter to Mr. Levi said.