

UNION SAYS PLEA WENT TO MITCHELL

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Gives New Data on Charges
of Immigration Misdeeds
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By MARTIN TOLCHIN

Officers of a union representing employes of the Immigration and Naturalization Service said yesterday that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and the head of the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were among the officials to whom they had complained of widespread corruption in the service.

The Justice Department, confronted with specific correspondence and dates of interviews, elaborated on a former statement and acknowledged that the union had "long complained" of alleged misdeeds. The charges have included graft, fraud, theft, smuggling and conflict of interest.

On Nov. 16, the union said, "Since 1966 this union has made personal complaints of criminal violations and malfeasances to the Attorney General, the F.B.I., various U. S. Attorneys and Congressional committees, to no avail."

Correspondence Released

At that time, John W. Hushen, director of public information for the Justice Department responded that the department "strongly rejects an allegation by the National Council of Immigration and Naturalization Service Locals that complaints of criminal violations have been ignored by the Attorney General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's offices."

Yesterday, the union, which represents 8,000 employes, supplied correspondence with various Justice Department official and specific information on various appointments. Mr. Hushen again was asked to comment.

"We've never said that they weren't making complaints," Mr. Hushen said. "They've been making complaints for a long time, and part of it is bound up in a union-management hassle."

"We object to their statement that their complaints were ignored," Mr. Hushen continue "In every case, appropriate action was taken."

He added, however, that he had no specific information on any of the charges.

Sees Lack of Action

However, Edward Kavazanjian, national liaison officer for the union, said that little action had been taken. "If they had done their job, we wouldn't need Operation Clean Sweep," he said. "This situation has been festering for years."

Operation Clean Sweep is a nationwide investigation into allegedly massive corruption in all echelons of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The inquiry, which has already touched on the activities of 150 officials, is based in San Diego.

Mr. Hushen would neither confirm nor deny the existence of Operation Clean Sweep.

A spokesman for the F.B.I. confirmed the union's statement that on June 10, 1968, three union officials met with John F. Malone, the agent in charge of the New York City office, to discuss allegations of corruption and malfeasance. The spokesman said that it was against the agency's regulations to discuss the disposition of the charges but added, "Appropriate action was taken."

Mr. Hushen acknowledged correspondence in 1968 between union officials and Leo M. Pellerzi, Assistant Attorney General for Administration. Mr. Hushen said that the charges had been referred to the Civil Service Commission.

Letter to Mitchell

The union officials say that they also wrote in 1968 to Sol Lindenbaum, executive assistant to Ramsey Clark, then the Attorney General. Mr. Hushen said that he had been informed of the correspondence.

The union officials also produced a copy of a letter that they said they sent in 1970 to Mr. Mitchell, then the Attorney General, in which they made further allegations of "poor planning, mismanagement and lack of funds."

In September, 1971, the union says, it wrote Richard G. Kleindienst, then Deputy Attorney General, that "the management of the I.N.S. is bankrupt and maladministered."

This year, the union is a driving force behind Operation Clean Sweep and has been collecting information for the investigation.

Mr. Kavazanjian's statement of Nov. 16 said, "This union and employes of the I.N.S. and the Border Patrol are ready to testify to the facts of long-standing corruption created and perpetrated by high I.N.S. managers and officials." He said that this included importation of females for immoral purposes, the illegal importation of alien laborers, extortion against illegal aliens and bribery and graft.