



Drug Cases

New Probe of Mistake Raids

Chicago

The Department of Justice will open soon a major new federal grand jury investigation into the illegal government drug raids in Collinsville, Ill., and their aftermath.

The sweeping new investigation, which was revealed over the weekend by Senator Charles H. Percy (Rep.-Ill.), will begin in Alton, Ill., on July 20.

The investigation, it was learned, will cover the raids themselves and claims by the two families involved that they have been harassed and intimidated since then.

The announcement follows by a few days completion of a 1000-page report by the FBI that looked into the possibility that federal drug agents were involved in a conspiracy to violate the Collinsville families' civil rights.

According to persons with access to the report, it con-

tains evidence of such a conspiracy.

Because of "the national importance" of the investigation, Percy said, the Justice Department has also appointed a special prosecutor to handle the case.

He is K. William O'Connor, deputy assistant attorney general for civil rights. He will leave Washington shortly to open the latest probe into the downstate Illinois drug raids by agents of the Office for Drug Abuse Law Enforcement, which on July 1 was merged with other federal narcotics agencies to become the Drug Enforcement Administration.

In April 23 about 15 of the drug-abuse agents, poorly dressed and carrying pistols and shotguns, broke into the homes of Herbert Giglotto and Donald Askew. While shouting obscenities and holding the terrified families at gunpoint, the men, without warrants of any kind, ransacked the homes. They found no drugs and blamed the raids on "a bum tip."

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