

M'GOVERN SCORES HOOVER ON PILOT

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Says Director Tried to Get
T.W.A. Flier Dismissed

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By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

Senator George S. McGovern yesterday accused J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of having attempted to destroy the career of a Trans World Airlines pilot who was critical of the F.B.I.'s handling of a hijacking in 1969.

Senator McGovern, adding a new element to recent criticism of the F.B.I. and its director from Congressional quarters, charged that Mr. Hoover had first sought to get the pilot discharged and, failing that, sought to prevent F.B.I. agents from acting as sky marshals on T.W.A. flights.

In an address at Lewis-St. Francis College in Lockport, Ill., the South Dakota Senator, who is the only announced candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, said his accusations had been "substantiated by former agents of the F.B.I. and by Charles C. Tillinghast Jr., chairman of the board of T.W.A., in a telephone conversation with my office."

Pilot Critical of Agents

The pilot cited by the Senator was Capt. Donald J. Cook Jr., who flew the T.W.A. jet hijacked from California to Rome on Oct. 31, 1969, by Raffaele Minichiello, a Marine who was absent without leave.

At the time of the hijacking, Captain Cook said F.B.I. agents had jeopardized the lives of the crew when the plane landed to refuel at Kennedy International Airport.

Captain Cook was in San Diego on personal business yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

Trans World Airlines, in a statement issued here, said the company was "not aware" of any boycott by F.B.I. agents and "works closely and continuously with the F.B.I. on a variety of matters."

The statement noted that sky marshals were assigned by the Federal Aviation Administration, not the F.B.I. As for Captain Cook, the statement said his criticisms were "personal" and "did not reflect the attitude of the company." It said he continue to fly for T.W.A. because he "meets the high standards of professional competence which are mandatory in the company."

McGovern's Accusation

Senator McGovern, in his speech yesterday, said Mr. Hoover had tried "to destroy the career of Captain Cook" by informing T.W.A. that he had "experienced some personal difficulty in the Air Force prior to his employment with T.W.A."

The company statement did not touch on this point, and a spokesman declined to talk

about it. The company's chairman was said to be unavailable for comment.

A spokesman for the F.B.I. in Washington said the agency would have no comment on any of the Senator's statements.

Senator McGovern, calling for the resignation of the F.B.I.'s 76-year-old director, also took Mr. Hoover and his agency to task on other grounds.

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