

TV Writer Raps 'FBI'

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A television scriptwriter has told a congressional panel that "The FBI" show is an example of the unrealistic and heavily censored TV diet that 75 million Americans are fed every night.

In over seven years, David Rintels said yesterday, the program never depicted a civil - rights case, never acknowledged the existence of paid informants and never included mention of a tapped telephone or bugged house or office.

And Rintels told the Senate subcommittee on constitutional rights it is not true that every episode of the show is based on a real case, as its producers state. He said some are not even "inspired" by actual cases.

Brutality

Rintels, chairman of the censorship committee of the Writers Guild of America, told the subcommittee he once was offered a job writing for the series and suggested doing a show on police brutality.

"Certainly, the answer

came back, as long as the charge was trumped-up, the policeman vindicated and the man who brought the specious charge prosecuted," Rintels said.

Rintels said every episode is censored by the FBI, the program sponsor, the producing company, and the ABC network.

Influence

Rintels was one of several witnesses who told Sen. Sam Ervin Jr.'s panel that networks censor writers and producers. The North Carolina Democrat has been chiefly investigating charges of government influence on the media.

Rintels said a Guild poll has shown 86 percent of its members "have found from personal experience that censorship exists in television."

Writers of "The FBI" series, he said, are carefully screened and the producers approve "only those who are politically acceptable." Not once, he said, has a woman or a black written an episode.