

Congressman Accuses FBI

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher (D-N.J.), accused the FBI today of plotting his political destruction because, he said, he refused to help J. Edgar Hoover in a dispute with Robert F. Kennedy.

The FBI attempted to blackmail him into quitting Congress with a "monstrous lie" involving his wife, he told the House in an emotional speech made under a rule of "personal privilege."

Gallagher said the key figure in the attempt was the FBI's former No. 3 official, Cartha D. "Deke" DeLoach, who retired in 1970 as assistant to director J. Edgar Hoover. Gallagher called for Hoover's resignation.

Gallagher is under indictment for income tax evasion, perjury and conspiracy.

No Comment

An FBI spokesman said the bureau would have no immediate comment. DeLoach, now vice president of PepsiCo, Inc., said "I won't dignify the congressman's charges with a statement."

Gallagher said DeLoach, at Hoover's request, had tried to get him to obtain and publicize "copies of the authorizations of the illegal bugging of Rev. Martin Luther King and of the casinos in Las Vegas" that were allegedly signed by Robert Kennedy as attorney general.

'Roy Cohn'

Gallagher charged that the FBI turned raw files over to Life magazine, which published articles about him in 1967 and 1968 including one that said he was a "tool and collaborator

of the Mafia." Another article related to the alleged removal of the dead body of Barney O'Brien from Gallagher's house in Bayonne, N.J., by convicted mobster Harold "Kayo" Konisberg.

"The FBI was spreading the story that Mr. O'Brien died in my bed while with my wife," Gallagher said. "Mr. (Roy) Cohn was to make me aware of this and the FBI was convinced that I would resign from the Congress and that would write finis to the career of Congressman Gallagher."

"The whole thing is one monstrous lie," Gallagher said.