



UPI Telephoto

Representative Gallagher told of a 'monstrous lie' involving his wife

Rep. Gallagher Charges 'Blackmail' Try by FBI

Washington

Representative Cornelius E. Gallagher of New Jersey charged yesterday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation sought to "blackmail" him into quitting Congress after he refused to help J. Edgar Hoover in a feud with the late Robert F. Kennedy.

The seven-term Democrat, who was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury last week on charges of income tax evasion, perjury and conspiracy, made his charges in a sometimes - emotional hour-long speech on the House floor as his wife and four daughters watched from the galleries.

Gallagher charged that there was "corruption at the highest level" of the FBI and said Hoover, the bureau's director, should resign.

He also declared that Catha D. De Loach, a former assistant director of the FBI, sought to spread a "monstrous lie" about Gallagher's wife and that Roy M. Cohn, a New York city lawyer, had "acted as a conduit to bring the hideous story of my wife to me."

BUREAU

A spokesman for the FBI said the bureau would have no comment on Gallagher's charges. De Loach, who is now a vice president of PepsiCo, Inc., said:

"I won't dignify the congressman's charges with a statement. The congressman is under indictment. The facts speak for themselves."

After a newsman read parts of Gallagher's speech to Cohn, he issued the following statement:

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation never asked me to deliver any message or threat to Congressman Gallagher and I never did. The Congressman's incomprehensible statement today must be viewed in light of the extreme distress which he is obviously experiencing."

SPEECH

Gallagher reiterated in his speech that he will seek re-election this year and that he expects to be vindicated of the indictment.

Gallagher said his troubles with the FBI began in June 1966, when as chairman of a House subcommittee on invasion of privacy he refused to sign a letter to then Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach demanding copies of "the authorizations for the illegal bugging" of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "and of the casinos in Las Vegas."

He said Cohn, a personal friend, had dictated the letter for his signature and had urged that it be forwarded.

"I asked him why it was

Another Nixon Cruise

Washington

President Nixon took a two-hour evening cruise on the Potomac River yesterday accompanied by a key military aide just returned from a fact-finding mission to Vietnam.

The White House said Mr. Nixon boarded the presidential yacht, Sequoia, with Major General Alexander M. Haig Jr., his deputy assistant for national security affairs. Haig had arrived in Washington only a few hours earlier after his week-long mission investigating the latest Vietnam action.

Associated Press

so important," Gallagher said in his speech. "He said that the man who signed the authorizations for those two electronic surveillances was Robert Kennedy when he was Attorney General. I told Cohn that I could not become involved in any feud between him and Robert Kennedy.

"He responded that this

was not his request. He stated that this letter was written by De Loach with the specific approval of J. Edgar Hoover. He told me the FBI would consider me a good friend if it were to make public those authorizations."

ARTICLE

As he began talking about an allegation in a 1968 Life magazine article that Harold (Kay) Konigsberg, a convicted extortionist, had removed the body of Bernard (Barney) O'Brien, a gambler and loan shark, from Gallagher's home in October 1962, the Representative's voice became choked.

He said that neither Konigsberg nor O'Brien was ever in his house during the 27 years he has lived there.

He claimed that De Loach had told Life writers that O'Brien had died of a heart attack while in Gallagher's bed. "The FBI was spreading the story that Mr. O'Brien died in my bed while with my wife," Gallagher said. "Mr. Cohn was to make me aware of this and the FBI was convinced that I would resign from the Congress and that would write finish to the career of Congressman Gallagher." He called it "one monstrous lie."

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