

NIGHT LEAD (300)

WASHINGTON, DEC. 30 (AP)-REP. H.R. GROSS, R-IOWA, SAID TODAY THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION "EITHER APPROVED OR CONDONED" WIRETAPPING IN A 1963 INVESTIGATION OF A NOW DISMISSED STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE.

IN A LETTER TO J. EDGAR HOOVER, THE FBI DIRECTOR, GROSS REFERRED TO THE LONG PENDING CASE OF OTTO OTEPKA.

OTEPKA WAS DISMISSED IN 1963 FROM HIS POST AS THE DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF SECURITY EVALUATOR ON CHARGES THAT HE PROVIDED UNAUTHORIZED MATERIAL TO THE COUNSEL FOR THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE AND FRAMED QUESTIONS TO BE PUT TO OTEPKA'S SUPERIORS IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S INQUIRY INTO DEPARTMENT SECURITY PRACTICES.

OTEPKA'S CASE STILL IS UNDER APPEAL AND HE REMAINED ON THE PAYROLL.

IT WAS BROUGHT OUT IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER 1963 THAT OTEPKA'S PHONE WAS TAPPED AFTER HIS SUPERIORS SUSPECTED THAT HE WAS SUPPLYING UNAUTHORIZED MATERIAL TO J.G. SOURWINE, THE SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL.

THE GROSS LETTER TO HOOVER RELEASED BY THE CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE TODAY WAS A FOLLOWUP TO EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE IN WHICH HOOVER ASSERTED THAT EXTENSIVE WIRETAPPING BY THE FBI DURING THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION WAS APPROVED BY THE THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL, ROBERT F. KENNEDY. KENNEDY DENIED THIS.

IN CITING THE OTEPKA CASE, GROSS WROTE THAT IT INDICATES "THE FACT THAT THERE WAS WIRETAPPING AND EAVESDROPPING DURING THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION THAT HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE FBI, BUT APPARENTLY DID HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE HIGHEST POLITICAL APPOINTEES OF THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION. . . .

" . . . THE FACT THAT THIS WAS EITHER APPROVED OR CONDONED IN EARLY 1963 BY THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEEM TO GIVE FURTHER SUPPORT TO YOUR STATEMENTS."

JOHN F. REILLY, THEN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SECURITY, FIRST DENIED AND THEN CONFIRMED TAPPING OTEPKA'S PHONE. SHORTLY AFTER HIS TESTIMONY HE RESIGNED FROM THE DEPARTMENT AS DID ELMER D. HILL, CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DIVISION OF TECHNICAL SERVICES.

PE/520PCS