

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1972

# Gallagher Accuses F.B.I. of 'Blackmail'

By RICHARD L. MADDEN  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 19— Representative Cornelius E. Gallagher of New Jersey charged today 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 Bayonne 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.

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

He also declared that Cartha D. De Loach, a former assistant director of the F.B.I., sought to spread a "monstrous lie" about Mr. 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."

A spokesman for the F.B.I. said the bureau would have no comment on Mr. Gallagher's charges. Mr. 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 Mr. Gallagher's speech to Mr. Cohn, he issued the following statement:

"The Federal Bureau of In-

## Asserts It Tried to Oust Him After He Refused to Assist Hoover

vestigation 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."

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

He devoted much of his speech to a denunciation of the F.B.I. and of Life magazine, which wrote articles about him in 1968, including one that described him as a "tool and collaborator" of Joseph Zicarelli, a reputed underworld figure in Bayonne. He said that Life had "a close working relationship with the F.B.I."

### Tried to Avoid Feud

Mr. Gallagher said his troubles with the F.B.I. 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 deB. Katzenbach demanding copies of "the authorizations for the illegal bugging" of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "and of the casinos in Las Vegas." He said Mr. Cohn, a personal friend, had dictated the letter for his signature and had urged that it be forwarded.

"I asked him why it was so important," Mr. 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 Mr. Cohn that I would 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 Mr. De Loach with the specific approval of J. Edgar Hoover. He told me the [F.B.I.] would consider me a good friend if it were to make public those authorizations.

"He told me that Mr. Hoover was very upset about the statements being made by Mr. Kennedy about widespread illegal wiretapping, eavesdropping and bugging and that Mr. Hoover was sick and tired of being made the sole brunt of that kind of criticism. He stated that Robert Kennedy had authorized those two activities by the [F.B.I.] and that Mr. Hoover was furious with Senator Kennedy, who was blaming it on Mr. Hoover."

According to Mr. Gallagher's account, he told Mr. Cohn that he did not want to get involved in a feud between Mr. Hoover and Mr. Kennedy and he quoted Mr. Cohn as saying at one point: "You'll be sorry."

### Discusses Life Article

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