

Angry Legislator

Cornelius Edward Gallagher

NYTimes

APR 20 1972

Hoover - wiretapping

20 Apr 72

"It just doesn't fit. This is a choirboy kind of guy, a war hero, a nondrinker, a nonsmoker."

Thus, in 1968, an aide to Representative Cornelius E. Gallagher of New Jersey expressed shock and disbelief over a Life magazine article that began with a resounding introduction:

Man is the story of the corruption of a U.S. Congressman by the Mob

News . . ." The article, which among other things linked the Bayonne Democrat to a Mafia figure, began an inexorable process that seems destined to ruin his career. It is the main story of his political life.

Another chapter in that story opened yesterday as the silver-haired, six-foot Congressman rose on a point of personal privilege, moved to the well of the House and delivered an emotional, hour-long speech.

In it he charged that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had attempted to "blackmail" him into leaving office, was corrupt "at the highest level" and sought to bring about his downfall by leaking information to Life and spreading malicious rumors about his wife.

As his voice cracked with emotion, his wife, Claire, and their four daughters—Diane, Christine, Patricia and Bridgette, ranging in age from 10 to 23—looked on from the spectators' gallery.

The seven-term Democrat views his dramatic speech as a natural and personalized progression in his battles for the individual's right to privacy.

His stand has had results, because—in addition to his positions on the Home Foreign Affairs Committee and the Committee on Government Operations—he was chairman of the now defunct subcommittee on invasion of privacy. He used the subcommittee to generate considerable public alarm over proposals that he viewed as threats to civil liberties.

Mr. Gallagher was first elected in 1958 to represent New Jersey's 13th District, which now consists of half of Hudson County, the city of Bayonne and the Union County cities of Elizabeth, Linden and Rahway.

The district takes in territory once ruled by the political boss Frank Hague and has a national reputation for corruption. Its citizens accept charges of scandal with the fatality usually reserved for natural disasters.

Earlier this month Repre-



United Press International
His overriding interest has been civil liberties.
(Mr. Gallagher in Washington yesterday.)

sentative Gallagher was named in a seven-count indictment by a Federal grand jury, charged with income-tax evasion, perjury and conspiring with former Jersey City Mayor Thomas J. Whelan and a former City Council president to hide at least \$373,000 in kickbacks.

He denied the charges, calling them the results of a "secret police society" conspiracy that has spent "\$11-million to destroy me" because of his efforts to protect citizens' privacy.

As a Representative he has the reputation as a genial colleague who votes liberal and does his homework on legislation.

The road to politics, for Cornelius Edward Gallagher, was a common route—through law school.

He was born March 2, 1921, in Bayonne. His father, a police officer, died when he was eight years old and his family scraped along on a pension of \$83 a month. He started to work at the age of 10 to supplement the family income, with jobs as a newspaperboy and soda jerk, among other things.

He graduated from St. Mary's School and Bayonne High School in 1939, and went to John Marshall College in Jersey City at night while working in a boatworks during the day.

During his sophomore year he enlisted in the Army, where he remained for five years.

Upon his return he went back to John Marshall—now called Seaton Hall—got his law degree in 1948 and set up practice in Bayonne.