

19 JUNE 1964

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WASHINGTON, JUNE 19 (AP)-SEN. EDWARD V. LONG, D-MO., TODAY ASKED CHAIRMAN OLIN D. JOHNSTON, D-S.C., OF THE SENATE POST OFFICE COMMITTEE TO HOLD A HEARING SOON ON LONG'S BILL TO PROHIBIT MAIL "COVERS."

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT DESCRIBES A MAIL "COVER" AS THE RECORDING FROM AN ENVELOPE OR WRAPPER THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SENDER, THE PLACE AND DATE OF THE POSTMARK AND THE CLASS OF MAIL INVOLVED.

LONG SAID HE WROTE TO JOHNSTON AFTER LEARNING THAT JUST ONE FEDERAL AGENCY, THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, ENGAGED IN MAIL "COVERS" ON 4,287 PERSONS OR BUSINESSES IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

"THAT IS JUST ONE AGENCY," LONG SAID IN A STATEMENT. "I HAVE NO ACCURATE INFORMATION AS TO THE TOTAL EXTENT OF MAIL SPYING REQUESTED BY THE MANY OTHER AGENCIES AND STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES."

LONG CONTENDS THAT USE OF MAIL "COVERS" IN AN INVASION OF PRIVACY. HIS BILL WOULD PROHIBIT THEIR USE.

LONG TOLD JOHNSTON THAT THE USE OF ALMOST 1,000 "COVERS" A YEAR BY INTERNAL REVENUE WAS HIGHLY DISTURBING.

LONG SAID IRS INFORMED HIM THAT THE "COVERS" WERE USED FOR THE MOST PART IN INVESTIGATIONS PERTAINING TO THE INTEGRITY OF EMPLOYEES AND TAX PRACTITIONERS AND IN INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO FUGITIVES AND CRIMINALS.

LONG CALLED THE USE OF MAIL "COVERS" IN INTEGRITY INVESTIGATIONS GROSSLY IMPROPER.

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