

FBI 'Spies' Censured By Muskie

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WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Edmund S. Muskie said today the FBI spied on last year's Earth Day rallies, including one he was involved in. He said this kind of thing threatens to smother freedom with fear, and suggested the FBI's activities be made subject to review by an independent board.

The Maine Democrat, in a speech prepared for the Senate, released a document on official FBI stationery which detailed Earth Day activities in Washington April 22. He said there were 40 to 60 similar intelligence reports filed on other Earth Day observances across the nation.

"If antipollution rallies are a subject of intelligence concern, is anything immune?" Muskie asked. "Is there any citizen involved in politics who is not a potential subject for an FBI dossier?"

Muskie did not say where he obtained the FBI document, but said it was not among those stolen recently from the FBI office in Media, Pa.

He said the Earth Day rallies were not billed in such a way as to warrant surveillance, and certainly did not require a report afterward. The fact that reports were filed, he said, leads to an uneasiness which is intolerable in a free society.

"Surveillance is more than excessive zeal by the FBI. It

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is a threat to our freedom. Surveillance leads to fear. Secret surveillance which produces secret files to be used by unknown persons; these are the ingredients for fear. Every dictator knows that elementary rule."

Neither the FBI nor the Justice Department had any immediate comment on Muskie's speech.

However, FBI sources indicated that the surveillance of Earth Day activities was more to keep tabs on groups such as Students for a Democratic Society and the Progressive Labor Party than any concern about the purpose of Earth Day.

Muskie said it has been pointed out some congressmen think their telephones are tapped. "If this is what congressional leaders think," he said, "how does an ordinary citizen feel when deciding whether to participate in a rally, write a letter or give a speech critical of the policy of the government which also keeps notes on his activities?"

Muskie said Congress should create an independent board to oversee the activities of the FBI and other federal intelligence agencies. He said the board itself might not be enough and Congress will have to legislate precise limits over the scope of domestic surveillance and over the use of collected information."