

SFCronicle

APR 23 1971

Boggs' Story of FBI's Spy Policy

Washington Post Service

Washington

House majority leader Hale Boggs (Dem-La.) charged the FBI yesterday with spying on congressmen, but Republican defenders angrily retorted that he offered no proof.

Boggs spoke for an hour in an effort to support a charge he had made in a one-minute speech on April 5 charging the FBI with tapping telephones of members of congress.

About 70 members, including leaders of both parties, waited at the end of the days business to listen.

At the end, a group of Democrats stood and applauded Boggs' denunciation of the "secret policy spying and prying" into the lives of congressmen and other citizens.

But representative Lawrence J. Hogan (Rep-Md.) a former FBI agent, replied: "I am shocked, disgusted and nauseated at the stench of red herring in this chamber." He said Boggs had promised proof of wiretapping and had produced none. No other Democratic party leaders spoke.

DUTY

After Boggs' speech, Attorney General John N. Mitchell issued a statement saying that "as expected, Mr. Boggs failed completely and totally to substantiate his wild charges."

Mitchell said Boggs had
See Back Page

From Page 1

produced nothing to show that the FBI had "done anything more than perform its duty to obtain criminal evidence by lawful means . . . it is unfortunate that Mr. Boggs continues to use the high office he holds to malign and defame the most respected investigating agency in the world."

Boggs related a personal incident from last summer: "I became suspicious of interference on the telephone lines at my private resi-

dence. The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company was asked to investigate. The investigator determined that a tap had been placed on my private telephone lines but that it had been removed in advance of the inspection.

"Sometime later, the telephone company transmitted to me its official report on the matter. The report stated categorically that there was no tap on my lines. Subsequently I learned that it is the policy of the Washington company and of the regional companies throughout the Bell System to give such reports, denying the existence of a tap if the tap had been placed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

TAPPED

Hogan replied that there is no way for anyone to tell whether a telephone has been tapped, nor any way to tell who placed a tap if one were found.

Boggs also repeated his demand that J. Edgar Hoover, 76-year-old director of the FBI, be fired. He said Hoover had performed great service in his 47 years as director but should now give way to younger men.

Boggs said two "highly placed career officials" of the department of Justice recently told him that "the Bureau was being destroyed — being turned into something it had never been — all because it was being used not to perform its mission but to protect the position of its director."

CENTURY

The Bureau is "no longer the FBI of film and fiction,"

said Boggs. For a quarter century, he said, it has been used increasingly to spy on what people think, rather than on criminal acts they perform. "For a decade, we have seen instance after instance of the director himself conducting himself in ways which no responsible law enforcement executive would permit."

Boggs specifically mentioned Hoover's action in charging a group with conspiring to kidnap a high government official months before they were indicated.

Boggs also recited other cases which are matters of public record, such as an FBI informer going to the office of Representative John Dowdy (Dem-Tex.), with an electronic device taped to his back to record a conversation. Dowdy has been indicated on charges of accepting a bribe.

PARANOID

"any one of you can be sitting in your office and an informer can come in with a tape on his back and the secret police can do anything they want with it," said Boggs.

Boggs quoted Attorney general Mitchell as saying congressmen were becoming "paranoid" on the subject of being spied on.

"If that is so," said Boggs, "it is exactly what is intended. Freedom of action by men in public life can be compromised quite as effectively by the fear of surveillance as by the fact of surveillance. This is a standard objective and tactic of the bureau."

The FBI is vital to national security, said Boggs, but it cannot be what it should be "so long as it runs beyond the oversight and accountability of the congress."

He asked President Nixon to appoint a commission to investigate the operations of the FBI "to go to the core of this cancer and remove it before the poisons spread further."