

Officials Protest Army's Civilian Spying

Officials Protest Army's Ci

Washington

Senator Sam J. Ervin's disclosure last week that the Army's 1967-1970 surveillance of senior elected officials was more extensive than previously known has stirred up a flurry of protest here.

Governor Kenneth M. Curtis (Dem-Me.) has sent a telegram to Secretary of the Army Robert F. Froehke demanding to know who ordered the investigation, how it was carried out, and the source of the information.

Saying he considered himself to have been seriously damaged by the investigation, Curtis asserted that "no amount of explanation by Army authorities can ever undo the doubt that will be cast in the minds of some because of this action."

Senator Fred R. Harris (Dem-Okla.) has written to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird asking him "to supply me at once with the file of Army intelligence reports on my activities" In addition, Harris said, "I would

like an explanation from you as to why my activities were watched, when surveillance began, and when it ended or will end."

Harris also said that "I believe you have a clear responsibility to publicly repudiate this unwarranted surveillance of high elected officials. Furthermore, I feel you owe me . . . a public apology."

Spokesman in the Pentagon said that answers to Curtis and Harris are being

prepared. But Laird, speaking to newsmen on Capitol Hill last week, said that Harris should direct his criticism to the Democratic administration under which civilians started and not to the Republican administration which he claimed has ended it.

Testimony by Froehke before Ervin's Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights last year showed that the Army undertook a watch over a wide range of civilian political activity beginning in 1967

under orders from senior officials of the Johnson administration. The program was intended to provide information thought necessary to handle potential civil disturbances.

But Froehke testified that the operation, known as Continental United States Intelligences, or CONUS-INTEL, continued until the Spring of 1970, more than a year after the Nixon administration had been in office. Harris was watched during two anti-war rallies in 1969, according to Army records obtained by Ervin's subcommittee.

In another instance, Representative John R. Rarick, (Dem-La.), phoned the Pentagon to ascertain why he had been put under surveillance. He said later that he had been "assured" that the Department of Defense "had not conducted any adverse investigation pertaining to me."

N.Y. Times Service