

Ex-Cop Spied on Non-

Washington

A former police agent has told Senate investigators that he spied on private citizens while working with the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit, a nationwide police information unit founded to combat organized crime.

The agent's description of his operations under LEIU sponsorship conflicts with the organization's stated purpose of exchanging information on organized crime.

Houston police officials said Monday they had dropped out of the association after repeated requests for personal information on individuals with no known criminal ties.

Lieutenant Ray Henry of the Long Beach Police Department, LEIU national chairman, denied the Houston allegations.

The former undercover agent, who worked out of a police department in the Midwest, described his experience in a recent interview with the staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, it was learned.

He reportedly said much of his undercover activity was unrelated to any investigation of organized crime

and that among individuals under surveillance were attorneys for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The agent's name and base of operations were withheld.

The LEIU has members in about 230 communities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

unknown outside police circles.

Henry said the organization exists "strictly for the purpose of putting two law enforcement agencies with a like interest together. The organization, as such, does not conduct any investigation or ask anyone else to do an investigation."

(In San Francisco, the

head of the 15-member San Francisco Police Department's intelligence unit said police intelligence officers here use information from the LEIU data bank "to concentrate on top, sophisticated national crime figures."

(The information is not used for political purposes, said Lieutenant Paul Lawler, but only against organ-

-Criminals?

ized crime.

(Lawler said San Francisco has been a member of the nationwide police intelligence network since 1936, when the late Police Chief Frank Ahern helped form the 19-member Western Police Department's intelligence unit, the forerunner of the national organization.)

Associated Press