

Senators Hear Gray Opponents

Washington

The Senate Judiciary Committee heard six witnesses testify yesterday in opposition to the confirmation of L. Patrick Gray III as FBI director as the hearings went into their sixth day.

Criticism focused on Gray's political connections with the President and Gray's handling of confidential FBI files, the Watergate bugging investigation and the arrest of a reporter in connection with stolen documents from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Columnist Jack Anderson, one witness, charged that Gray "has proven himself to be a political hatchetman for Richard Nixon," and that Senate confirmation would turn the FBI directorship into "a political plum."

Representative Edward I. Koch (Dem-N.Y.), another witness, told the senators that "my opposition stems from what I consider Mr. Gray's insensitivity to the value of privacy in America today." Koch said he asked to see his own FBI file — a file that only includes public information such as news clippings, according to Gray — but that Gray refused.

ROLE

Senator John V. Tunney (Dem-Calif.) announced to the committee that yesterday he inspected four raw FBI files from the Watergate investigation and feels it is absolutely essential for presidential counsel John W. Dean III to testify on his role in the White House inquiry into the Watergate affair.

Gray earlier told the committee that he gave Dean 82 of the 186 basic FBI files on the Watergate probe. Tunney and several other liberal Democratic senators on the committee have questioned the propriety of this action because of Dean's relationship with one of the Watergate bugging conspirators, G. Gordon Liddy.

Dean recommended Liddy for his job as general coun-

sel at the President's re-election committee and emphasized that Liddy, a former FBI agent, could help the re-election committee with "intelligence-gathering problems," according to testimony at the Watergate trial.

This connection between Dean and Liddy should have effectively disqualified Dean from receiving the raw FBI Watergate data, Tunney said.

Some staff members of liberal Democratic senators believe that Tunney has the necessary votes to bring Dean to testify.

Tunney, Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) and Senator Robert C. Byrd (Dem-W.Va.) — all of whom have voiced reservations or opposition to Gray — have indicated that no vote on the Gray nomination should take place until Dean testifies.

INTEGRITY

In other testimony yesterday, Joseph L. Rauh Jr., vice chairman of the Americans for Democratic Action, a liberal group, said that "what is at stake in Mr. Gray's nomination is at least the integrity of the FBI and at the most the integrity of our political system."

Les Whitten, the principal assistant to columnist Jack Anderson, presented a detailed, eight-page criticism of his January 31 arrest by the FBI while covering a story of the return of documents stolen by others from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A Washington federal grand jury later refused to indict Whitten. His chief criticism was that the FBI persisted in the case even though they learned that the documents were to be returned.

Indian leader Hank Adams, who was also arrested in the documents case, criticized the FBI arrests as a reflection that Gray has little concern for the rights of Indians.

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