

2 Senators Criticize Limiting FBI 'Bug' File

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Two senators on the select Watergate investigating committee sharply criticized yesterday an agreement with the Justice Department that permits only two senators and two aides to see FBI files in the case.

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), one of the seven senators on the committee, said the decision to limit access to the committee chairman and ranking minority member was ridiculous and an "insult to the United States Senate."

Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.), another member, said every senator on the committee "should have access," and yesterday appealed the decision to Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst. Weicker said through a

spokesman that he had received word from Kleindienst that the decision would stand.

Under an agreement made Friday by Kleindienst and Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.), the Watergate committee chairman, access to the files was limited to Ervin, Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), the ranking minority member, and the two counsels to the committee.

Sen. Joseph M. Montoya (D-N.M.), another committee member, said Friday that he suspected Kleindienst of an "ulterior motive" in withholding the FBI files from the full committee. Sen. Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.), another committee member, said through a spokesman yesterday that "it might have been better if all the committee had access to the files, but I have no strong feelings."

Acting FBI Director L. Pat-

rick Gray III had offered access to the files to all members of the select Watergate committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is now holding hearings on whether to confirm Gray as permanent FBI director.

The offer was modified last week after President Nixon said at a press conference that for the FBI to give a full committee member, said through a "and then to have them leak out to the press, I think could do innocent people a great deal of damage." Mr. Nixon indicated he felt such files should be seen only by the chairman and ranking minority member of a congressional committee.

In line with the President's statement, Kleindienst yesterday "directed" the FBI to also limit the viewing of the FBI Watergate files to two members of the Judiciary Committee considering Gray's nomination. Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), a member of the Judiciary Committee, said yesterday that he was refused access to a particular file, adding, "It's unfortunate that the President seems to leave the impression that there is something to hide in the Watergate investigation."

Bayh said he was told by Gray's executive assistant yesterday that the files would only open to the Judiciary

Committee chairman, ranking minority member and the Committee's two counsels.

On Feb. 28, Gray originally told the Judiciary Committee: "... Any member of the United States Senate who wishes to examine the investigative file of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this matter may do so, and I will provide knowledgeable, experienced special agents to sit down with that member and respond to any question that member has."

On March 7, Gray told the Judiciary Committee: "I made the unprecedented offer... because of the fact I felt so strongly from the very beginning that the FBI's credibility as an institution was at stake and that we had to conduct this investigation so it would stand scrutiny from anyone."

In reference to the restriction on access Sen. Inouye said: "The administration has insulted the U.S. Senate. Why don't they come out and say they don't trust us. They let a clerk typist (in the FBI) see the files, but they won't let a U.S. senator. It's ridiculous."

Inouye said that the Watergate has left "a dark cloud that is not just over the White House but over all politicians — and it must be cleared."

Sen. Weicker said he was "disappointed in the decision to not allow all senators an equal right to investigate... If nobody is going to help, I'll dig up the facts myself." Weicker said he intends to ask for "a supplementary investigative staff" to assist him personally in a probe of the Watergate allegations.