

'72 Statement by Ramsey Clark On F.B.I. and Eagleton Disputed

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 6—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has found no evidence in its files to support a statement in 1972 by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark that it possessed information on Senator Thomas F. Eagleton's mental health, according to confidential F.B.I. reports.

Mr. Clark, who headed the Justice Department during the latter months of the Johnson Administration, was quoted one day before the 1972 Presidential election as saying he had seen such information in a Bureau file while serving as Deputy Attorney General in 1965.

He said the details of the Missouri Democrat's treatment for exhaustion and depression, the disclosure of which resulted in the Senator's being dropped as the Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee, had been unearthed by F.B.I. agents investigating Mr. Eagleton's fitness for a possible appointment as an Assistant Attorney General.

As the Watergate scandal has unfolded, there have been reports that the Nixon Administration obtained information on Senator Eagleton's medical history between the time he received the Democratic Vice-Presidential nomination in July, 1972, and his public disclosure three weeks later that he had undergone electric shock therapy.

One report, carried by The Washington Post last May, charged that Mr. Eagleton's "Confidential health records" had been in the possession of John D. Ehrlichman, President Nixon's former domestic affairs adviser, "several weeks before the information was leaked to the news media."

However, the confidential

F.B.I. report shows that a search of the bureau's records of the Senator, ordered the day after Mr. Clark's charges were made public, proved unproductive.

David D. Kineley, then an executive assistant to former acting F.B.I. Director L. Patrick Gray 3d, reported that he had been unable to find any record that Mr. Eagleton had ever been investigated by the F.B.I. for an Assistant Attorney General's position.

Furthermore, Mr. Kineley wrote, he and another F.B.I. official had "searched every file we have on Eagleton," all cross references in other files, and had found no information on the Senator's mental health.