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## Clark Denies F.B.I. Provided Life With Gallagher Wiretap

Says the Agency Never Had Transcripts That Link Jerseyan With Mafia

By RICHARD L. MADDEN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 — Attorney General Ramsey Clark said today that transcripts of purported telephone conversations in a Life magazine article linking Representative Cornelius E. Gallagher with a Mafia figure could not have come from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Clark said at a news conference that the matter was being "very thoroughly studied," but added: "At this time I am advised that the F.B.I. does not have, has not had, any transcripts or logs that could be the basis for the quotations in the Life magazine story."

The Attorney general said that the Justice Department was looking "within the range of reason" at all federal agencies, such as the Internal Revenue Service, which might have been involved in any wiretapping.

He said he "would consider it a breach of integrity that would call for stern disciplinary measures if we found anyone from any agency" who had given an outsider "any information from an electronic surveillance."

Life magazine had no comment today on Mr. Clark's statements.

The Life article, which appeared in last week's issue, described Mr. Gallagher, a Bayonne Democrat, as being the "tool and collaborator" of Joseph [Joe Bayonne] Zicarelli, a reputed Mafia figure in New Jersey.

The article reproduced transcripts of purported telephone conversations between the two men in 1960 to substantiate the charge that Mr. Gallagher had interceded with the police to protect Zicarelli's gambling operations in Bayonne.

Mr. Gallagher has denied all the allegations and has said that the transcripts of the purported wiretapped conversations were "totally manufactured."

After the article appeared, Representative Charles S. Joelson, Democrat of Paterson, wrote to the Attorney General to demand an explanation of how Life had obtained the transcripts. Mr. Joelson said the "clear implication" of the article was that the Justice De-



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Ramsey Clark

partment had done the wiretapping.

The Life article said that on June 13, 1960, unidentified "authorities" had begun electronic surveillance of a telephone used by Zicarelli and were "interested solely in the mobster."

"The Congressman came into the inquiry unexpectedly; and what to do about this has been troubling officials of the Department of Justice ever since," the article asserted.

Following Mr. Clark's news conference today, his office released a letter of reply to Mr. Joelson. The letter, which was written by Clifton F. Sessions, the Justice Department information director, said in part: "We find no evidence that the alleged intercepted conversations quoted in Life magazine were ever known to Federal authorities."

The letter reiterated that the F.B.I. had reported no record of any such quotations used in the article and added:

"Furthermore, there is no record of any matters covered in the alleged conversations receiving any prospective consideration by the Administration which was in power in 1960. No basis for prosecution arising from any such matters is reflected in department records."

Mr. Clark told newsmen that since the early nineteen-forties the departmental policy has been for the Attorney General to approve every wiretap by any Federal investigative authority within the country.