

FBI Chief Finally Finds Secret Files



SFCronicle

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THE FBI's new boss, Pat Gray, has just discovered what we offered to show him six months ago — that the FBI has been keeping files on congressmen.

We had reported that the FBI spied not only upon congressmen but upon black leaders, movie stars, football heroes and other prominent Americans. As evidence, we quoted excerpts from the secret FBI files.

To our astonishment, Gray nevertheless insisted to correspondents: "none of you guys are going to believe this — and I don't know how to make you believe it — but there are no dossiers or secret files."

We immediately offered to tell Gray, since he was new around the FBI, where some of the secret files were stashed. We even printed several of the file numbers to help him locate the hidden dossiers. The entries vary in classification, we noted, from "confidential" to "top secret — no foreign dissemination — no dissemination abroad."

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DESPITE our help, it took Gray six months to discover the congressional files. Not until an FBI agent, Lee Kias, was caught checking on a Democratic congressional candidate in Ohio did Gray admit that the FBI had been collecting information on both congressmen and candidates since 1950.

Gray said the practice had "just come to my attention" and he ordered it stopped. But he insisted that the FBI program had been limited to gathering "bio-

graphical data on major candidates for the House of Representatives and the Senate from newspapers, magazines, campaign literature and various reference publications."

Once again, we are happy to enlighten Gray about his files. The congressional dossiers, in addition to newspaper clippings and campaign literature, also contain eavesdrop information, surveillance reports and gossip from informants.

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THE FBI chief, if he doubts us, can start with the file on House Speaker Carl Albert. Gray will find therein a report, based upon a conversation picked up by an FBI listening device, about Albert's relationship with lobbyist Fred Black.

The file on House Democratic Leader Hale Boggs, now missing in Alaska, is loaded with wire tap information picked up during the FBI's investigation of fixer Nathan Voloshen and ex-House aide Martin Sweig.

Or in the FBI file on House Republican Leader Gerald Ford, Gray will find a report on a bugged telephone conversation between Avco's Earl "Red" Blaik and the GOP leader. FBI agents, checking on the monitored conversation, found that Blaik had enlisted Ford's aid in preventing a probe of an Avco defense contract and that Ford occasionally had hitched free rides on Avco planes.

There's much more in the secret FBI files which we'll be happy to share with Pat Gray if he has trouble locating them.