

Kelley Would Open Files

Washington

Individuals should be allowed to inspect FBI files on them so long as the secrecy of the agency's informants can be protected, FBI director Clarence M. Kelley said yesterday.

"I don't think there is any question. We'll try to do it if we possibly can," Kelley said on the NBC "Today" program.

"Informants are most important to us as an investigative aid, and they have been told their names are confidential," Kelley said. "The only way is to go through the files and remove the identities of the informants."

Kelley also said he believed former director J. Edgar Hoover was justified in tactics aimed at disruption of "New Left" activist groups in the last years of his long tenure. But he said the policy will not be used again.

"It was felt something had to be done," he said, because of bombings and violence. He said the strategy worked because the widespread violence ended.

"It must have been a very troublesome thing to the bureau," Kelley said. "It's all over with. We are not going to do that again."

Asked whether he thought Hoover's policy was right,

he said: "I think so. I think that he certainly felt this was the proper thing to do."

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