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Edwards Says, 'I Was FBI Victim'

By William Moore

Congressman Don Edwards (Dem-San Jose), recently named to conduct a special House probe into any abuses by U.S. intelligence agencies, told The Chronicle yesterday he had been a victim of such abuses.

Edwards, who served as an FBI agent in 1940-41 and later became an outspoken critic of the bureau, said the FBI leaked information from his confidential personnel file to an opponent in a 1964 Congressional race.

The congressman said for-

mer assistant FBI director Cartha DeLoach later denied to him that the bureau had leaked the information.

"But there was only one place that it could have come from—nobody else knew about it," Edwards said.

The information, he said, concerned a telegram he sent to the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover on Dec. 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Edwards said he had resigned from the bureau two months before that date, but had cabled "to ask if Mr. Hoover needed my services again."

Hoover, he related, turned down his offer and said the FBI had a policy against re-hiring agents.

"That was all there was to it," Edwards said, "and shortly afterwards I joined the Navy as an officer in Naval intelligence."

But the congressman said his Republican opponent in a 1964 campaign, William P. Hyde, tried to use the information as evidence that Edwards was attempting to be a draft dodger.

"We were at one of these candidates' night functions," Edwards recalled, "and all of a sudden he came out and said, 'Well, you resigned as an FBI agent, and then as soon as Pearl Harbor occurred, you tried to get back in.'"

"That really alerted me that he had access to confidential information," Edwards said.

Contacted yesterday, Hyde said: "I did not have any access to any FBI files on his conduct. The only thing I had were several ex-FBI agents who did support my campaign—because they thought he was too liberal—and told me things they knew about Edwards."

Did that include information about Edwards' telegram to Hoover?

"I'm not sure I even knew he tried to get back in the



REP. DON EDWARDS
San Jose congressman

FBI," said Hyde, who is currently an auditor in Livermore. "My memory is a little hazy for the events back in that campaign."

Edwards said that shortly before his successful 1964 re-election race he had voiced widely publicized criticism of the FBI for not hiring more black agents in the South.

Edwards, who is now chairman of the House Judiciary Civil Rights Subcommittee, was named last month by Speaker Carl Albert to conduct the Select House Intelligence Committee investigation into U.S. intelligence agencies.