Levi's Advice On Senate Watch on FBI

Washington

Attorney General Edward Levi said yesterday it would be "dangerous" to place the FBI's domestic intelligence division under the jurisdiction of a new Senate intelligence committee.

Levi and FBI Director Clarence Kelley urged the Senate Judiciary Committee to keep the Senate's present FBI oversight functions within the judiciary panel rather than "fragment" it between two committees.

Levi argued that the FBI's intelligence activities are interrelated with its law-enforcement responsibilities and that the proposal to create the new committee "bordered on management" of the agency's intelligence responsibilities.

"I do not think it is wise and I do not think you can separate them," he said. "I think it is dangerous to take that part of the bureau (domestic intelligence)" and possibly "fragment" the FBI by having two committees oversee the agency.

"My view is that there should be effective oversight and it should come from this' committee," he said.

The committee has been asked for its views on a resolution proposed by the Government Operations Committee to create an independent Senate intelligence panel with the responsibility for all intelligence activities in the government, including the CIA and other foreign and military intelligence agencies.

United Press