

Executive Accused of Fraud in Inquiry Into F.B.I.

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—One of the principal figures in a Justice Department inquiry into alleged corruption within the Federal Bureau of Investigation was charged today with having defrauded the Government and having evaded the payment of more than \$32,000 in Federal income taxes.

The charges against Joseph X. Tait, who owns the United States Recording Company, a private concern in Washington, were described by a Justice Department official as "a spinoff" of the department's continuing investigation of the F.B.I.

One knowledgeable source said that, although the charges brought against Mr. Tait were "substantial" ones, today's indictment was intended to give the businessman an opportunity to strike a deal with the Justice Department that would involve his cooperation in the bureau investigation.

The New York Times reported last week that Justice Department prosecutors looking into alleged bureau corruption, including the possibility that Mr. Tait had paid bureau officials kickbacks in return for lucrative contracts to his company, had concluded that they would have difficulty in bringing major criminal charges

against any F.B.I. executives on the basis of the evidence developed thus far.

The United States Recording Company was for many years the bureau's principal supplier of electronic eavesdropping equipment. Evidence developed last year by a House select committee showed that, in some instances, the markups on that equipment amounted to 30 percent.

The House committee also established that Mr. Tait had had a personal relationship with several of the executives involved in the bureau's purchasing, including John P. Mohr, the bureau's retired

administrative chief.

According to some of those familiar with the findings of the committee, which has since expired, Mr. Tait, Mr. Mohr and several other Government officials attended several weekend poker parties at a private club in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Washington. But attorneys for Mr. Mohr and the others have said that each of the men paid their own expenses on such occasions.

In delving into Mr. Tait's dealings with the F.B.I., Justice Department prosecutors over the last 10 months discovered the

alleged shortfall in his personal income tax payments. The prosecutors also said they found what they maintained was a conspiracy between himself and a one-time Government official to cheat the department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Brian Gettings, Mr. Tait's attorney, said

after learning that a Federal grand jury here had returned the indictment that his client would reject any offer by the prosecutors to cooperate in return for a reduction of charges, and that he intended to stand trial and see "his innocence affirmed."