

(300) GROSS-HOOVER

WASHINGTON, DEC. 30 (AP)-REP. H. R. GROSS, R-IOWA, SAID TODAY THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION USED WIRE TAPPING IN 1963 AGAINST OTTO F. OTEPKA, A STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY EVALUATOR.

OTEPKA WAS REMOVED FROM HIS POST AFTER GIVING A SENATE COMMITTEE PERSONNEL INFORMATION THE STATE DEPARTMENT REGARDED AS CLASSIFIED. HE IS STILL ON THE PAYROLL AND IS FIGHTING TO BE REINSTATED.

GROSS BROUGHT UP THE OTEPKA CASE IN A LETTER TO J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR OF THE FBI, FOLLOWING UP THEIR RECENT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ABOUT WIRETAPPING BY THE FBI.

THE EARLIER LETTERS TOUCHED OFF A CONTROVERSY BETWEEN HOOVER AND SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, D-N.Y., WHO WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER PRESIDENT KENNEDY, OVER THE PRACTICE OF GOVERNMENT EAVES-DROPPING. HOOVER DECLARED THE FBI TAPPED WIRES WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT. KENNEDY SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE PRACTICE OUTSIDE CASES INVOLVING NATIONAL SECURITY.

IN ANOTHER LETTER TO HOOVER YESTERDAY, GROSS SAID THE FBI DIRECTOR HAD MADE IT "COMPLETELY CLEAR THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT F. KENNEDY WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE SURVEILLANCE THAT WAS PRACTICED DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE."

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GROSS THEN CITED THE OTEPKA CASE AND SAID IT INDICATED "THE FACT THAT THERE WAS WIRETAPPING AND EAVESDROPPING DURING THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION THAT HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION OF THE FBI, BUT APPARENTLY DID HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE HIGHEST POLITICAL APPOINTEES OF THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION. . .

"IN THIS CCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC

"IN THIS CASE THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY OR CRIME, ORGANIZED OR UNORGANIZED. THE FACT THAT THIS WAS EITHER APPROVED OR CONDONED IN EARLY 1963 BY THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEEM TO GIVE FURTHER SUPPORT TO YOUR STATEMENTS."

GROSS ALSO SENT A LETTER TO SEN. EDWARD LONG, D-MO., WHO HEADS A SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATING GOVERNMENT EAVESDROPPING. GROSS URGED LONG TO LOOK INTO THE USE OF WIRE-TAPS IN THE OTEPKA CASE.

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