

FBI Order Sought Data On Politics

CHICAGO, June 8 (UPI)—Richard Held, former officer in charge of the FBI in Minneapolis, says he was instructed by FBI headquarters during the 1972 presidential campaign to provide "certain information that was purely political" on Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey and other Minnesota Democrats.

Held, who has been in charge of the Chicago office since February, 1973, made the disclosure in a television interview Friday night.

The agent said the instructions came via teleprinter from Washington from the office of acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray. The message did not mention names but held said it sought information "on Hubert Humphrey and the like" for campaign purposes in a "strong Democratic state."

"I can recall the first communique that upset me," Held said. "We were to submit certain information that was purely political. I was so disturbed I called up Washington to check on it and they told me the orders had come right from Mr. Gray's office."

He said the message requested FBI agents to "determine conditions in that area so the White House people could come out and counteract Democratic candidates. They could send their people out to enhance the Republican image there."

Held said he ignored the request.

[In Washington, an FBI spokesman said the message asked agents heading key field offices to define major problems facing law enforcement two which the administration could address itself. The spokesman, James Healy, said the instruction was not intended to refer to any specific individual, and that Held's assumption that it did "was an incorrect interpretation."]