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F.B.I. QUESTIONS CONGRESSMAN: Cortland J. Jones, left, and Bernard C. Rachner talk from door with Paul N. McCloskey Jr., Republican, in his Washington office. They held private meeting on Pentagon's Vietnam study.

F.B.I. Visits Congressman on Papers

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By **ROBERT M. SMITH**

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WASHINGTON, June 22 —

Two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation interviewed Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr. today about documents he has relating to the Vietnam war.

The agents, who identified themselves to Mr. McCloskey as Bernard C. Rachner and Cortland J. Jones, had made an appointment to see the California Republican, an opponent of the war, at 2 P.M. today.

They arrived just before that time, carrying leather portfolios, introduced themselves and waited. But when Representative McCloskey arrived to usher them into his private office, the agents wavered at the threshold — squeezed side-by-side into the doorway—apparently startled by the television crew and newsmen they saw inside.

After the two agents had had a private meeting with the Congressman, they hastened from the office in silence, hurried down four flights of stairs and jumped into a taxi, still pursued by reporters.

Mr. McCloskey said that the agents had not asked him for the documents, which he said he assumed were working papers for the secret Pentagon study on Vietnam policy, but he said that he had answered some questions.

Among other things, the Representative has said, the papers in question show that Henry Cabot Lodge, then American Ambassador in Saigon, met with President Ngo Dinh Diem while American officials and leaders

of a plot were working to overthrow the Diem regime.

In addition, Mr. McCloskey has said the papers disclose that Robert F. Kennedy suggested in 1963, during an interdepartmental dispute about President Diem, that America withdraw from Vietnam. Mr. McCloskey asserted the Diem affair was "an incredible case of duplicity on the part of the State Department." He said that the papers showed that Mr. Kennedy had asked "if we can't win with Diem and we can't win without him, then why don't we disengage?"

Mr. McCloskey said that he intended to "place the information in the documents" before the House Government information subcommittee, probably Thursday.

The Congressman has said he received the documents from Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, a research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who worked on the Pentagon report.

By the time Mr. Rachner and Mr. Jones walked into the anteroom of Representative McCloskey's office on the fifth floor of the Longworth House Office Building, a television crew from the National Broadcasting Company had already set its equipment up inside. Mr. McCloskey had told the network of the appointment.

Seven minutes later, Congressman McCloskey breezed into his office, whistling. He asked about the F.B.I. agents and was told they were in the corridor. He went out to greet them, while the N.B.C. soundman, cameraman, lighting technician, producer and reporter waited. A blue sofa at one

side of the room was left vacant for the agents.

Mr. McCloskey stepped in. The two agents advanced to the threshold, followed by a few more reporters. When the agents looked in and saw more reporters inside the office and a microphone swaying in front of them on a boom, they stopped.

"I'll hear your request that this should be private," Mr. McCloskey said.

"Congressman, under these circumstances," Mr. Rachner said. "I don't believe this would be possible . . ."

"You don't think this would be possible?" Mr. McCloskey repeated.

In unison the agents said, "No Sir."

Representative McCloskey explained that he had "a problem," since he had "asked the executive branch for a discussion and they have not responded."

Mr. Rachner said, "Well, we're here at the specific request of the Justice Department."

After a few moments in which the agents stepped neither forward nor back, the Congressman agreed to see the agents in private.

Mr. McCloskey later said that the agents had not asked him for the documents and that he had not shown the documents to them. He said that they did ask from whom he had gotten them, and that he told them Dr. Ellsberg.

They also asked him, he said, what Dr. Ellsberg had said when he gave him the documents. He refused to answer that question, he said.