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FBI Denies

Probe of

Eagleton

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WASHINGTON — (AP) —

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark says that while he was in the Justice Department he read an FBI file on Thomas F. Eagleton that included details of the Missouri senator's treatment for exhaustion and depression.

The FBI denies it ever investigated Eagleton.

Clark said in a telephone interview that he learned from an FBI file of Eagleton's medical history in 1965. At the time, Clark said, he was deputy attorney general and Eagleton was one of several men under consideration for appointment as an assistant attorney general.

'FBI Check'

As a result, he said, an FBI check was conducted and it unearthed details of Eagleton's medical history. Eagleton was then lieutenant governor of Missouri.

When an FBI spokesman was asked if such a file existed and if it had been distributed during the past year, he replied: "We have never conducted an investigation of Sen. Eagleton."

Last month, the St. Louis Post - Dispatch reported that the McGovern campaign organization was investigating reports that the Committee for the Re-Election of the President had leaked the information about Eagleton's illnesses after Eagleton was nominated in July.

Eagleton, however, said in an interview that he had no evidence that the leak came from Republican or governmental sources.

Eagleton said also that if he had been under consideration for a federal appointment in 1965, he was unaware of it.

'Not Serious'

Clark said that such background checks routinely cross the desk of the deputy attorney general.

He said that he did not feel Eagleton's medical history was serious enough to disqualify him for a Justice Department appointment.

Nicholas Katzenbach, who was attorney general at the time, said he did not recall that Eagleton was ever considered for such an appointment, but he said he couldn't be certain.

Katzenbach said it would be normal procedure to run an FBI check on a prospective appointee before the individual was sounded out about the job.

He said it was possible that someone on the White House staff could have asked for such a check.