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# Ford Given FBI Denial

## On Spying

The FBI has assured President Ford that it does not spy on members of Congress, White House press secretary Ron Nessen said yesterday.

"The President does not approve of spying on Congress, nor does the FBI approve of spying on Congress," Nessen said in answer to questions.

"The President has been assured, and has no reason to doubt, that information on members of Congress is used only in criminal investigations or in cases where a check is being made on an appointment to the executive or judicial branch."

The Washington Post reported earlier this week that the FBI maintained files containing information on the personal lives of congressmen and senators.

Nessen said the FBI assured the President the information it has "is never used to influence the judgment or action of anyone in Congress or anyone else."

Nessen said Mr. Ford was informed that the FBI collects information on members of Congress in three ways:

- When a member is "either the subject of a criminal investigation or is the victim of an action that leads to a criminal investigation."

- When a member is being considered for appointment in the executive or judicial branch of government.

- When informants and others volunteer information to the FBI.

- "When such allegations do not appear reasonably related to the investigating jurisdiction of the FBI, the FBI tells that to the person who sent in the information," Nessen reported. "The information that was sent in, the letters and exchanges and replies from the FBI, are retained as a record by the FBI."