

# Senators Seek F.B.I. Data In 'Raw' Intelligence Files

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WASHINGTON, May 14—The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activity voted today to ask the Federal Bureau of Investigation for documents contained in the bureau's "raw" intelligence files.

The vote, which came at the end of a closed business session, appears to signal the beginning of a confrontation between the Senators and Attorney General Edward H. Levi, who has opposed providing such files to Congress.

Senator Frank Church, the Idaho Democrat who heads the 11-member panel that is looking into Federal intelligence gathering activities, said that the request would be made under the committee's authorizing resolution, and not the Freedom of Information Act.

One committee aide, asked about the nature of the files to be requested, indicated that they concerned the domestic counter-intelligence operations conducted by the F.B.I. between 1956 and 1971.

## Request Not Received

Those operations, known collectively, as Cointelpro, were targeted at various times against the American Communist party, the Socialist party, the New Left and some civil rights groups working in the South.

A Justice Department spokesman said tonight that the committee's request had not yet been received. Mr. Levi is attending an international conference in Vienna, and any response to the request will presumably have to await his return.

Mr. Levi has recently declined, however, to make similar "raw," or unevaluated, files available to a study group of the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, which is conducting an

inquiry for a House Judiciary subcommittee.

The Attorney General has expressed in recent weeks his conviction that the confidentiality of such materials should be preserved by the Justice Department as a safeguard against their unauthorized disclosure.

In a speech last month on confidentiality, Mr. Levi raised the question of whether a committee of Congress would be able to prevent the F.B.I.'s intelligence materials from becoming public.

## Talks Are at Impasse

Negotiations between the Justice Department and the G.A.O. auditors on the question of access to such materials are said by officials of both agencies to have reached an impasse.

If the Senate committee headed by Mr. Church meets with similar refusals from the Justice Department, as seems likely, its only option will be to issue a formal subpoena for the files.

The committee has voted to give Senator Church the power to issue such subpoenas.

If it became necessary, the committee could file a civil lawsuit seeking an order to the Justice Department to comply with its subpoena.

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Senator Church has previously made known his view that the Senate resolution setting up his committee entitles its members and staff to view whatever confidential materials of the F.B.I. and other Federal agencies it deems necessary to complete its investigation.