

# Justice Agency Accedes To Request for F.B.I. Data

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WASHINGTON, July 14—The Justice Department has broadened its response to requests from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for classified F.B.I. documents, following an assertion by Senator Frank Church, the committee's chairman, that the department's sluggishness had "severely hampered" the committee's work.

Senator Church made the remark last Thursday after the committee decided to ask Attorney General Edward H. Levi and Clarence M. Kelley, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to appear before it this week to discuss the delays.

In an interview on Friday, Mr. Levi expressed surprise and dismay upon being told of Mr. Church's statement, saying "I'm sorry he said that, and I hope it isn't true. I don't think we should be severely hampering their investigative work."

Mr. Levi met later that day with K. William O'Connor, who is coordinating the Justice Department's response to various investigations of Federal intelligence agencies, presumably to seek an explanation of the Church committee's complaint.

### Agreement Announced

Senior Justice Department aides would not disclose what had taken place at the meeting, but they acknowledged that Mr. O'Connor subsequently agreed to provide the committee staff with documents that he had previously ordered withheld because of what he called national security considerations or because he feared compromising some individuals' privacy.

F.A.O. Schwarz, the Senate committee's counsel, who is named for his great-grandfather, the toy retailer, told reporters Thursday that areas in which his staff was not receiving the requested materials included the alleged political abuse of confidential F.B.I. files, electronic and physical surveillance, the bureau's use of informers and its controversial effort to disrupt radical political groups.

Although the Church committee has been concentrating on covert foreign operations of the Central Intelligence Agency, primarily its alleged efforts to assassinate foreign leaders, the panel also plans to delve into the domestic operations of the F.B.I. in open hearings within the next two months.

A topic of principal interest is likely to be Cointelpro, the F.B.I. counterintelligence program that attempted, between 1956 and 1971, to disrupt, confuse and "neutralize" domestic political groups of the left and right and also some moderate civil rights organizations.

### 'Very Concerned'

Justice Department officials said yesterday that the F.B.I. had been "very concerned" over the release to the Senate committee staff of Cointelpro documents that identified bureau informers. The officials feared that if the informers' names later became public through news leaks, their lives, or at least some F.B.I. operations, might be endangered.

Before last week Senate investigators were permitted to view 2,000 pages of Cointelpro documents with the names of operatives and informers and

other sensitive information excised. But on Friday, officials said, Mr. O'Connor gave the committee staff access to the full, unexpurgated file on Cointelpro.

He also gave the staff access to previously withheld documents relating to the Nixon Administration's wiretapping of 17 Government officials and newsmen, the F.B.I.'s long electronic surveillance of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the confidential files on individuals that J. Edgar Hoover, the late F.B.I. director, maintained in his private office.

### Data on Congressmen

The Hoover files, according to officials who have read them, contained salacious or derogatory information on a number of prominent persons, including members of Congress.

One Justice official also said that "certain information" concerning break-ins and burglaries by F.B.I. agents "might conceivably be made available to the committee staff" as well.

The break-ins had previously been alleged by anonymous sources, but Mr. Kelley at a news conference today confirmed officially for the first time that such activities had taken place.

Committee sources expressed guarded optimism after the Justice Department's reversal of its position on Friday, but one official said that it remained to be seen whether the newly provided materials included the specific facts that the panel had sought to advance its investigation.

Justice Department officials said that although representatives of the Church committee met with Mr. O'Connor earlier this month to express their dissatisfaction with the speed of the department's response to committee requests, their complaints were not made known to Mr. Levi until his discussion with Mr. O'Connor.

Senator Church confirmed after today's meeting of the select committee that his staff received "some additional material after I raised the question publicly" last week, but he added that they would continue to make additional requests as the investigation continued.