

NBC Denies It Gave FBI Credentials

New York

NBC chairman Julian Goodman said Friday that a thorough investigation in the company has found nothing to corroborate a report last week that FBI agents had received press credentials from NBC, allowing them to pose as newsmen at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City.

"We have investigated as thoroughly as we know how," Goodman said, "and we still don't know what it's all about or why NBC has been implicated in this way."

NBC had been named as the source of the FBI's press credentials in internal documents presented Tuesday at the hearings on the domestic surveillance activities of the bureau before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The episode of the 1964 convention was recalled at the hearings in connection with the testimony on the bureau's electronic surveillance of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and black civil rights organizations.

Among documents made available to the press at the committee hearings was a memorandum from H. N. Bassett of the FBI on the bureau's internal inquiry into its own activities at the 1964 convention, which contained the sentence:

"Through cooperation with the management of NBC News, our agents were furnished with NBC press credentials."

"I can't conceive of anyone at NBC cooperating with the FBI in anything like this," Goodman said. "It's never been the policy of NBC to give press credentials to anyone but those working for us. We try to guard zealously the credentials of NBC correspondents — it's the whole basis for our credibility."

New York Times