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FBI Purchasing Probe

New York

The FBI is being investigated for alleged payment of exorbitant prices for sophisticated spy gear manufactured by a poker partner of the bureau's former purchasing agent, Newsweek magazine reported yesterday.

Newsweek said FBI director Clarence Kelley asked for the investigation in the wake of reports that the bureau paid a markup as high as 30 per cent for about \$100,000 worth of electronic equipment manufactured by U.S. Recording Co. The magazine said the reports involve Joseph Tait, president of the firm, and former agent John P. Mohr, who retired

in 1972.

Both Tait and Mohr deny any wrongdoing in the retransaction.

The magazine said the House Intelligence Committee, which is conducting the probe, said the two men had been friends for years and, with other FUI officials, had been poker partners at the Blue Ridge Club in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

It said the club burned to the ground last month, the day before House investigators were to probe its books.

Fire officials attributed the blaze to faulty electrical wiring.

Associated Press

See SFC 10 Oct 75, this file.