

...F.B.I. Pressure?

The F.B.I.'s field investigation of a radio-television newsman has been described as "routine" by the White House because he was supposedly under consideration for a high Federal job "in the environmental area." This enabled the investigators to check his neighbors, working associates, former employers and present executives of CBS News of which Daniel Schorr is a well-known correspondent. His beat includes Federal agencies and programs that have been questioned and occasionally criticized. Complaints about his coverage have been made before when deemed unfriendly toward Government.

The surface story that has emerged in conflicting versions from the White House demands further clarification, to put it mildly. Mr. Schorr declares that he knows nothing about being considered for a Federal job. Is it normal practice for the White House to investigate a candidate for a new position before it is even known whether he is interested in it? Unless the air is cleared, the implication remains that in this instance a none-too-subtle effort was made to intimidate Mr. Schorr or his employers—or both.