

1 Feb 72

FBI Probe of CBS Newsman Finds Only 'Favorable' Info

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has told Congress his agents, after being asked to investigate CBS newsman Daniel Schorr, interviewed 25 persons in 6½ hours and found "entirely favorable" information.

In a letter made public today by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the Judiciary subcommittee on constitutional rights, Hoover said the White House asked for the probe but did not request any specific type of information.

Rather, Hoover said, agents conducted a routine investigation, the type during which questions are asked about a person's "character, loyalty, general standing and ability."

Ervin, who opened a new series of hearings into the freedom of the press, said yesterday he wants to find out more about the investigation. He added that White House officials have refused to discuss the case or to testify on the general "problems of the White House and the press."

After the investigation was

disclosed last November, the White House said it was ordered because Schorr was under consideration for an unspecified federal job. White House aides said the probe was not related to criticism of Schorr's reporting by President Nixon and some administration officials.

Schorr said he had never been offered any administration job, that he did not believe he was being considered for one, and that the probe was meant as harassment.

Ervin said he still hopes to learn what government positions were open at the time of the Schorr investigation, who ordered it and when, what information the FBI was asked to obtain, to whom they were to report, and "what happened to the information collected about Mr. Schorr."