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Sen. Scott 'Thankful' For the FBI

Washington

The concern of some congressmen that their telephones are tapped by the Federal Bureau of Investigation represents a "new form of reverse McCarthyism," Senator Hugh Scott (Rep.-Pa.) said yesterday.

He attributed the fears to "neo-isolationists" who are "looking under their beds.

"They are developing psychosomatic tendencies, and it makes you a sort of a hero in the eyes of some unthinking people if you imply that the FBI is somehow menacing you or your friends."

HOOVER

Scott, on the ABC interview program "Issues and Answers," said flatly that "the FBI has not had under surveillance any member of Congress, House or Senate," since J. Edgar Hoover became director.

Several members of Congress recently have said they suspected FBI wiretaps on their phones, but none has produced evidence. House majority leader Hale Boggs (Dem.-La.) has said he can produce evidence he has been under FBI surveillance.

Scott, the Senate Republican leader, said the FBI had once come to his aid when his income taxes were being investigated by an attorney general, apparently as a result of his role in the Bobby Baker case.

BAKER

Scott was a member of the Senate Rules committee during the investigation of Baker, former secretary to the Senate democratic leadership, who is now serving a sentence for income-tax evasion.

"I know that when one attorney general was busy investigating my income taxes because I was too incisive in my charges in the Bobby Baker case, that I was very thankful for the FBI, which was prepared to investigate and, I believe, assert my integrity. I was glad the FBI was there when the attorney general was after me."

Scott could not be reached for amplification on the charge that a former attorney general delved into his income tax returns. An aide said Scott was referring to the late Robert F. Kennedy. Scott has reason to believe his returns were subjected to a special auditing while the Baker investigation was in process, the aide said.

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