

Boggs' Hate Mail For FBI Blast

WASHINGTON — (NNS) — The arrival of the mailman is not a cheerful occasion these days for House majority leader Hale Boggs.

It brings notes like this one, from a San Francisco woman:

"You dastardly, seditious, traitorous dog. Your attack on J. Edgar Hoover assails the one man who stands between the people and the anarchy that has infiltrated every office of our government. And don't think we are not aware of it. Of course you are on the FBI list, you treacherous tax-eater. May you be richly cursed."

Written on a western Union "Thank-You-Gram," it is part of a blizzard of hate mail that has been falling on Boggs, the Louisiana Democrat who accused FBI Director Hoover of "Gestapo tactics" and of tapping his telephone and those of other senators and representatives.

Hoover Support

Hoover, who denied the charges, is getting a lot of mail, too — tens of thousands of letters — "99 and 9/10s of them supporting Hoover," an FBI spokesman said.

Not all of Boggs' mail on the FBI issue is hostile, but his aides concede that the "pro" letters are running behind the "anti."

Not all of those who disagree with Boggs pen "hate letters." Many are dispassionate critics, such as the man from Dallas who wrote:

"I was quite disturbed and surprised at your recent re-

marks concerning J. Edgar Hoover. I think a man in office has the responsibility of keeping us informed. Hoover, I feel the man must also be very careful making public charges against anyone in public office.

"I think now you have made these charges against J. Edgar Hoover, you should be prepared to substantiate and make public positive proof. If you do not have this proof and cannot prove that congressmen's telephones were tapped, Mr. Hoover is due a public apology from you."

'Put Up or'

Others put the same sentiment more tersely:

"Put up or shut up."

The letters, from all over the nation, reflect a wide range of feelings and opinions about Hoover and the FBI, about Boggs and about freedom in America.

They show those who disagree with him divided into groups: One believes it is not true the FBI taps congressional telephones. The other believes the FBI should tap the telephones of members of Congress, or anyone else, and that it is wrong for anyone to criticize the FBI for doing it.

A Palo Alto man said:

"I consider it an excellent idea that there is a law requiring the FBI to tap the phones of all federal legislators."

"I say that the FBI should have much more power than it does," wrote a Wisconsin woman.

"I say J. Edgar Hoover, who has spent his life protecting this country, should use any means to do so," wrote a New Yorker.

"If you're afraid your telephone is tapped, it well ought to be," said a man from Coffeyville, Kan. Another from the same town said: "For my money, you had just as well attack motherhood or home, as J. Edgar Hoover."

'Investigate Congress'

A Fort Worth woman wrote:

"It's time some members of Congress are investigated as some of them are radicals."

Again and again, critics told Boggs the only reason anyone would object to having his telephone tapped would be that he was guilty of something.

"I think it's a good idea and anyone who objects may have something to hide. I am perfectly willing to have my phone tapped any time by the local police or the FBI," said a Costa Mesa man.

From Lenoir, N.C.:

"In my opinion, if he (Hoover) has anyone under surveillance, he has some reason. I am not afraid of the FBI having a dossier on me so why should you be?"

In the face of the heated public reaction to his charges, and the failure of other members of the House to commit themselves to an all-out fight against Hoover, Boggs has lapsed into silence on the issue.