

See story by Harry Kelly, SF Sunday Examiner & Chronicle, 13 Jun 71, this file.

Hoover Says F.B.I. Did Not Use Taps On Congressmen

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WASHINGTON, June 8 (UPI) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to its director, J. Edgar Hoover, was at one time reportedly tapping 47 telephone and had had secretly planted at least six microphones for security reasons or to investigate organized crime. None of them, Mr. Hoover said, was being used on Congressmen.

The F.B.I. chief provided the information at a closed House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on March 17, "to put the record straight" about his increasingly criticized agency. The heavily censored testimony was made public today.

The House Democratic leader, Hale Boggs of Louisiana, charged earlier this year, that the F.B.I. was bugging Congressional telephones. However, Mr. Boggs never produced evidence of his charges.

Mr. Hoover cited a newspaper article, which appeared in the Washington Post which he said raised "suspicion that Senator Birch Bayh's office was bugged during the Judge Clement Haynsworth controversy.

Judge Haynsworth's nomination to the Supreme Court was rejected by the Senate last year, with Senator Bayh, Democrat of Indiana, among the more vocal Haynsworth opponents.

"We, of course, never had any electronic coverage of Senator Bayh or any other Senator or Congressman," Mr. Hoover said. "Furthermore, the charge that the F.B.I. has tapped Central Intelligence Agency phones is absolutely false. At no time in the history of F.B.I. has this ever been done."

"I would like to add, also, we have never tapped a telephone of any Congressman or any Senator since I have been director of the bureau," said Mr. Hoover, the first and only director of the agency.

Mr. Hoover said his testimony on electronic surveillance had been cleared by Attorney General John M. Mitchell prior to his appearance before the subcommittee.