

CBS News, Mitchell Krause reporting.

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The Watergate Seven, who pleaded innocent on Tuesday [19 Sep] and were released on bail, were given the most detailed investigation ever conducted - that word tonight from L. Patrick Gray, the acting FBI director.

Gray said the FBI investigated 1,800 leads, interviewed 1,500 people, spent 14,000 man-hours and used 53 of the agency's 59 field offices in the inquiry.

Also tonight, Attorney General Richard Kleindienst said in New York that the seven men indicted in the Watergate affair acted without orders of superiors. Kleindienst said the FBI investigation turned up no evidence that anyone else was involved.

The Democrats contend that some higher-ups in Republican campaign circles must have been behind the attempt to spy on Democratic headquarters since funds from the Nixon re-election campaign turned up in the bank account of one of the accused.

[Complete.]