

Jackson's Charges On Bogus Letters

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) says federal investigators failed to act on his report that bogus campaign letters accused him of illicit sexual affairs.

The letters, according to Jackson and Sen. Edmund Muskie, made the same accusation against Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.).

The letter reportedly were circulated during the Democratic presidential primary in Florida and were on stationery under a "Citizens for Muskie" letterhead.

Muskie, who has disclaimed the letters, said they were an example of a Republican-inspired effort to sabotage his campaign. He said they damaged his fellow senators and, because they were represented as coming from him, damaged him as well.

"Obviously it was a spurious letter," said Jackson's press secretary, Bryan Corcoran.

Jackson said a complaint about the letters had been hand-delivered to the U.S. attorney's office in Tampa, Fla., on March 13 — the day before the Florida primary.

U.S. Attorney John Briggs of Jacksonville, Fla., said yesterday he knew nothing about the campaign letter until he read of it in a newspaper account.

He confirmed that an assistant U.S. attorney had been given the campaign material, but added: "Very probably we pointed out it was a state matter and I don't know if they pursued it with the state or not."

Briggs said he understood that the letters were mailed, "raising a possibility of a federal violation."