



ACCUSED OF HAMPERING THE PROBE

Jack Anderson as he spoke yesterday in Eugene, Ore.

U.S. Prosecutors Accuse Anderson

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Government prosecutors say columnist Jack Anderson's publication of excerpts from secret grand jury minutes on the Watergate case has "hampered the investigation."

It was learned yesterday that the FBI has launched an investigation to discover how Anderson gained possession of the grand jury transcripts which he printed in his daily column earlier this week.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert, who heads the Watergate prosecution team, said there could be only two possible sources for the leak—his own office or the commercial court-reporting firm that has been transcribing the minutes.

After the Anderson columns began appearing in newspapers, the FBI swept the grand jury meeting room for listening devices but found none.

In an interview, Anderson charged that the White House and the Justice Department were using the grand jury as a forum for obscuring the Watergate scandal because the information turned up was muffled by normal grand jury secrecy.

"We didn't obstruct the investigation, we helped it along," Anderson said. "It's the White House and the Justice Department that have been obstructing and hampering justice."