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Kelley Asserts Watergate  
Unfairly Tarnished F.B.I.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 11 (AP)—The Watergate scandals unfairly rocked the Federal Bureau of Investigation with a credibility gap but morale among the 8,500 agents remains high, the director, Clarence M. Kelley, says.

"We have been painted with a brush that is very unfair," Mr. Kelley said yesterday. "We have been linked to the backwash of Watergate."

Mr. Kelley said that the Watergate affair had spawned a general disenchantment with government and it had rubbed off on the F.B.I.

He sidestepped questions about F.B.I. operations last year under the former acting director, L. Patrick Gray, saying he was not associated with the agency at the time and could not comment.