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F.B.I. Investigating Congressional Record Hoax

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 —

The Federal Bureau of Investigation began looking today into how false statements attributed to two Representatives were inserted in the Congressional Record yesterday morning.

An F.B.I. spokesman said the agents were investigating to see whether any violation of Federal law had occurred. He said that any findings would be turned over to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Representative Wayne L. Hays, Democrat of Ohio, who is chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Printing, requested the investiga-

tion after false statements attributed to Representatives Earl F. Landgrebe of Indiana and John M. Ashbrook of Ohio, both conservative Republicans, appeared in the record.

Congressional aides said they were not sure whether the false statements could lead to a charge of forgery or of impersonating a federal officer.

The statement attributed to Mr. Landgrebe urged President Ford to appoint Richard M. Nixon as Vice President and then resign.

In a statement in The Congressional Record this morning Mr. Landgrebe denounced the hoax as "the work of a morbid and twisted mind." He continued, "it is a fraud upon me, and it is a serious violation

against the House of Representatives."

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Representative Michael J. Harrington, Democrat of Massachusetts, acknowledged that a separate incident involving a false statement published last month in the Record in the name of Representative Otto E. Passman, Democrat of Louisiana, had been the work of a few college students working as interns for the summer in the Harrington office.

The spokesman said that aides of Mr. Harrington immediately called Mr. Passman and apologized. Mr. Passman was said to have told the Harrington aides, "Don't be too hard on the young men who did it."