SFChronicle

FBI Is Probing 'Leaks'

Washington

The FBI is probing the source of "leaks" of classified information from its Watergate files to reporters, a bureau spokesman confirmed yesterday.

He described the investigation, which reportedly has been underway for several months, as an internal inquiry initiated by FBI director Clarence M. Kelley.

The spokesman also con-

firmed reports that the office of Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor, is being kept advised of the progress of the investigation. But sources in Jaworski's office have given no indication of what action, if any, the prosecutor plans to take in the matter.

Other sources familiar with the investigation said that one of those questioned recently by FBI agents was W. Mark Felt, who retired

as the bureau's associate director in June of 1973, a year after the Watergate break-in that marked the FBI's entry into the bugging and burglary case and its subsequent coverup.

Other former officials, including William D. Ruckelshaus, who served for two and a half months last year as the acting FBI director, have also been interviewed by agents working on the case, the sources said.

Felt has been mentioned in discussions about the identity of "Deep Throat," the mysterious government official who provided Washington Post reporters with background information on developments in the Watergate investigation.

But the FBI's former No. 2 official reportedly has assured Kelley that he was not "Deep Throat."

New York Times