

W/GATE

EX-F.B.I. OFFICIAL TESTIFIED AGNEW WAS INVESTIGATED

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Senate Staff Told of Check
Before 1968 Election at
Request of Johnson

NY Times

OVER

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2—The former No. 3 man in the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified under oath in 1973 that the bureau investigated Spiro T. Agnew shortly before the 1968 election at the request of President Johnson.

In heretofore unpublished testimony, Cartha D. DeLoach, formerly assistant to the director of the F.B.I., asserted that shortly before Mr. Agnew was elected Vice President, President Johnson asked the bureau to investigate him on a matter of "the gravest national security" and that an investigation was conducted.

The testimony was taken by Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., Republican of Tennessee, and Senate Watergate committee staff investigators.

Of the F.B.I. investigation, Mr. DeLoach said "that the reason this was being done was because they felt the Republicans—and this was their [the White House] statement—the Republicans were attempting to slow down the South Vietnamese from going to the Paris peace talks and they wanted to know who either Mr. Nixon or Mr. Agnew had been in touch with from Albuquerque when they visited the city several days prior to that."

Mrs. Chennault Involved

Mr. DeLoach said that the late J. Edgar Hoover had authorized an investigation and that the Domestic Intelligence Division of the F.B.I. had obtained the toll call receipts of persons on Mr. Agnew's staff in an effort to discover if anyone had called Mrs. Anna Chennault.

Mrs. Chennault, widow of the commander of the Flying Tigers in World War II, was alleged to have been an intermediary between the South Vietnamese and the Republicans.

Sources who worked on the White House staff in 1968 dispute the genesis of the investigation. They say it was the F.B.I. that first suggested Republican links to the South Vietnamese.

Mr. DeLoach also said in his testimony that Mrs. Chennault had been the subject of "physical surveillance" by the F.B.I. that involved following her with teams of agents.

According to sources within

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