

# Former FBI <sup>W/G</sup> Aide Defends His Break-Ins

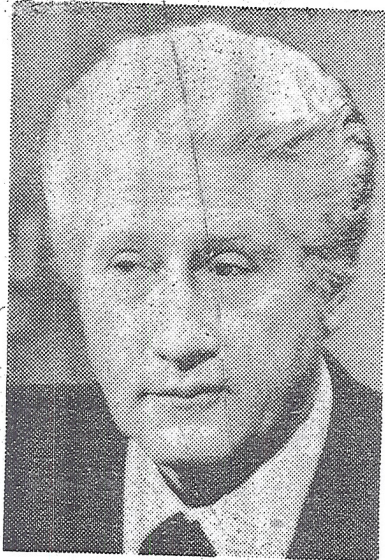
Washington

W. Mark Felt, the former associate director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, suggested yesterday that he might become a "scapegoat" in the Justice Department's investigation of several burglaries carried out by bureau agents in recent years.

Felt again acknowledged authorizing two break-ins by agents in 1972, six years after J. Edgar Hoover ordered a halt to such burglaries. Felt said that both break-ins were aimed at uncovering information about foreign and domestic terrorists and, if he were indicted, "my defense would be that the national security interest of the country was paramount."

In an appearance on the CBS television program "Face the Nation," the FBI's former No. 2 official noted that one of the target groups, the Weather Underground, had claimed "responsibility for hundreds of bombings," including

Back Page Col. 6



UPI Telephoto  
MARK FELT ON TV  
He was No. 2 in FBI

## FBI

From Page 1

some at the capitol and the pentagon.

The second break-in, he said, had been intended to produce information about an Arab group that was "planning on all sorts of terrorism in the United States, and I think we stopped it because we took that action."

"You're either going to have an FBI that tries to stop the violence before it happens, or you're not," Felt said. "Personally, I think that this is justified and I'd do it again tomorrow."

The Justice Department lawyers, who questioned Felt before a federal grand jury in Washington last week, are investigating burglaries by FBI agents directed against associates of the fugitive members of the Weather Underground group in the New York City area.

Those burglaries, many apparently authorized in advance by bureau officials in Washington, took place between 1971 and 1973, according to FBI records.

None of them was accompanied by a judicial search warrant, and Felt conceded yesterday that the practice, though necessary, had been an "extra-legal" one. But the problem facing the bureau, he added, had been one of serving "the greater good," even though the constitutional rights of a small number of individuals had been violated.

"To not take action against these people and know of a bombing in advance," Felt contended, "would simply be to stick your fingers in your ears and protect your eardrums when the explosion went off, and then start the investigation."

J. Edgar Hoover, the late FBI director, had ordered in 1966 that the use of burglaries as an investigative technique be halted.

The former associate director, who retired from the bureau in 1973, again denied persistent speculation that he was "Deep Throat" the mysterious source of inside information about the Watergate affair.

"I am not Deep Throat," Felt declared, "and the only thing I can say is that I wouldn't be ashamed to be, because I think whoever (that person was) helped the country, no question about it."

New York Times