

2d FBI Bureau Chief Censured

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray has censured the head of the bureau's large Washington field office, placed him on probation and transferred him to St. Louis, The Washington Post reported today.

The Post quoted FBI sources as saying the action against Robert Kunkel was to punish him over an incident in which an agent was overpowered during an anti-war demonstration last May.

It was the second time this month that Gray has disciplined a special agent at a major field office.

Earlier Action

Earlier, Gray demoted, censured and transferred Wesley Grapp, of the Los Angeles unit, for privately monitoring office phones and disobeying orders to relax grooming rules, the Post said.

The newspaper said that, according to FBI sources, Gray is concerned about checking the power of "empire builders" who attained considerable influence under the late J. Edgar Hoover.

Kunkel, a 26 year FBI veteran refused to comment on the Post report. The newspaper said a spokesman at the FBI national headquarters would only confirm that Kunkel had been transferred to head the smaller St. Louis office.

The Post said the FBI sources related that an FBI agent tried to tackle an anti-war demonstrator who had hit a policeman with a stone during a Capitol demonstration last May 21.

Agent Overpowered

The agent was overpowered by demonstrators, the paper said. It said FBI agents who rescued him pulled their revolvers and

pointed them at demonstrators.

Kunkel's report said the agent had not been overpowered, and glossed over many controversial details, the Post said. It said Gray then asked the FBI's inspection division for a report, which was carefully documented, contradicted Kunkel's version and confirmed the agent had been overpowered.

The newspaper quoted its sources as saying Gray was infuriated by Kunkel's report and felt it had been motivated by the long-standing idea of "don't embarrass the Bureau."