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**Clark 'Read
 FBI's File'**

On Eagleton

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Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark says that while he was in the Justice Department he read an FBI file on Thomas F. Eagleton that included details of the Missouri senator's treatment for exhaustion and depression.

The FBI denies it ever investigated Eagleton.

Eagleton was hospitalized in 1960, 1964 and 1966. After details of his illness became known last summer, Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern dropped Eagleton as his vice presidential running-mate.

Clark said yesterday in a telephone interview that he learned from an FBI file of Eagleton's medical history in 1965. At the time, Clark said, he was deputy attorney general and Eagleton was one of several men under consideration for appointment as an assistant attorney general.

CHECK

As a result, he said, an FBI check was conducted and it unearthed details of Eagleton's medical history. Eagleton was then lieutenant governor of Missouri.

When an FBI spokesman was asked if such a file existed and if it had been distributed during the past year, he replied: "We have never conducted an investigation of Senator Eagleton."

Last month, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the McGovern campaign organization was investigating reports that the Committee for the Re-Election of the President had leaked the information about Eagleton's illnesses after Eagleton was nominated in July.

ROUTINE

The Missouri senator said in an interview that he had no evidence that the leak came from Republican or governmental sources.

Clark said such background checks routinely cross the desk of the deputy attorney general. He said that he did not feel Eagleton's medical history was serious enough to disqualify him for a Justice Department appointment.

Nicholas Katzenbach, who was attorney general at the time, said it would be normal procedure to run an FBI check on a prospective appointee. *Associated Press*