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Columnist Aide's

Washington

The government dropped its case yesterday against investigative reporter Leslie Whitten and two Indians after a federal grand jury refused to indict them on charges of possessing stolen government documents.

The grand jury met Wednesday with Whitten, columnist Jack Anderson, Whitten's boss, and two Indians, Anita Collins and Hank Adams, and announced yesterday morning that because of a lack of evidence it would not issue any indict-

ment.

Federal prosecutor John F. Rudy II then asked for dismissal of the charges.

FBI

Whitten, speaking to other reporters after the brief court session, attacked the FBI for filing the charges in the first place and said "the FBI is the real villain" in the matter.

The three were arrested January 31 by the FBI, fingerprinted and jailed on charges of possessing some of the thousands of documents taken from the Bu-

Case Dropped

reau of Indian Affairs headquarters during an occupation by militant Indians last November.

Whitten said he was helping Adams return the documents to the BIA — with advance knowledge of the FBI — when they were arrested.

Whitten said the grand jury's action showed that it "considers freedom of the press more important than the vengeful or malicious actions of the FBI or the Nixon Administration."

RESTRAINT

He added, "until some re-

straint is put on the FBI things like this will happen again. The White House has a force for political investigation in the FBI that did not exist under (J. Edgar) Hoover."

Whitten had provided Anderson information for his column based on some of the documents taken during an eight-day seizure of the Bureau of Indian Affairs building. The columns alleged mismanagement of Indian affairs on the part of various agencies and officials.

United Press