

# The FBI's Secret Congressional Files



— Jack Anderson

**H**OUSE SPEAKER Carl Albert has asked the FBI's new boss, Clarence Kelley, to advise him on the "very serious matter" of FBI congressional files.

For years, we have been reporting on the FBI's habit of keeping files on prominent Americans, including members of Congress. As evidence, we have quoted excerpts from the secret FBI files.

When Kelley's predecessor, Pat Gray, took over the FBI, he blandly assured newsmen: "None of you guys are going to believe this — and I don't know how to make you believe it — but there are no dossiers or secret files."

★ ★ ★

**W**E IMMEDIATELY offered to tell Gray, since he was new around the FBI, where some of the secret files were stashed. We even printed several of the file numbers to help him locate the hidden dossiers.

But it wasn't until the FBI was caught snooping into the private life of a Democratic congressional candidate six months later that Gray admitted the FBI had been collecting information on both congressmen and candidates since 1950.

Several congressmen, eager to find out what the FBI has been compiling about them, have asked to see their FBI files. But the bureau has contended that the law prohibits the destruction or dissemination of existing files.

Now the mighty House speaker has joined in the inquiry. As yet, Kelley hasn't responded to Albert's request. But he has been turning down other congressional requests.

For example, Representative Edward Koch (Dem-N.Y.), a leader in the effort to close the books on the FBI's political files, got nowhere with Kelley.

"I am confident," responded the FBI chief in a private letter, "that you have file references in your office on me and my predecessors (to locate correspondence). I see nothing sinister in your maintenance of file references on me and I trust you would agree this bureau is equally entitled to maintain such file references concerning you."

★ ★ ★

**F**ROM OUR OWN access to the FBI's secret files, however, we can report that the FBI keeps far more than routine references. The congressional dossiers, in addition to newspaper clippings and biographical data, also contain eavesdrop information, surveillance reports and gossip from informants.

Albert's FBI file, for example, contains a report about his relationship with lobbyist Fred Black, based upon conversation picked up by an FBI listening device.

The firm but friendly Kelley, however, shows no inclination to open up the congressional files.