

NYTimes
F.B.I. CHIEF DEFENDS
AGENCY USE OF FILES

FEB 1 1975

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 30 (AP)—Clarence M. Kelley, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said the agency's collection of information about private citizens is not a serious threat, unless the data are misused.

"Record keeping is not in itself an ominous thing, but it depends on the manner in which they are used," Mr. Kelley told the annual dinner of the Salvation Army last night.

The former Kansas City police chief said the F.B.I. had a good record of protecting the rights of persons named in its 2.5 million files.

Mr. Kelley challenged allegations by Representative Don Edwards, Democrat of California, who is chairman of a House civil rights subcommittee,

that the director denied the existence of files on members of Congress at confirmation hearings last year.

"I did not say, by any means, that there were no records on file on members of Congress," Mr. Kelley told newsmen. "I did say that there was information of an incidental nature on members of Congress."

He said the problem was "only a matter of semantics."

There is no way to stop people from giving unsolicited information to the F.B.I., Mr. Kelley said, adding that once the agency receives the information, Federal regulations dictate that it be retained.