

FBI Spying 'Foolish, Outrageous'

Washington

Attorney General Edward H. Levi said yesterday the FBI engaged in foolish and sometimes outrageous activities during the disruptive counterintelligence program, which the bureau says it ended in 1971.

"All of them were foolish and some of them were outrageous," Levi said in response to questions at a news conference.

"There's enough dishonesty, lack of candor and incivility in our society as it is and I don't think the government should add to that," the attorney general said.

The description was Levi's strongest condemnation of the FBI activities called Cointelpro since taking office almost four months ago.

Cointelpro involved FBI attempts to harass and disrupt dissident groups of the left and right through such tactics as mailing false and anonymous letters to the target organizations.

Levi last week disclosed that the FBI had five counterintelligence programs in addition to the seven which were revealed about two years ago.

Levi was asked how he has approached the persistent difficulty attorneys gen-

eral have had in obtaining full information about FBI activities.

He said he has hit on no better solution than relying on the good faith of FBI officials and reading newspapers.

"I get a great many mem-

os from the FBI—they're usually answers to things that have appeared in the newspapers," he said.

However, Levi said he does not believe the FBI intentionally withheld information about the five additional Cointelpro operations

from him.

"I think they didn't know about it themselves," he said.

One of those programs involved FBI efforts to pit organized crime against the Communist party. Another involved attempts to disrupt organizations promoting independence for Puerto Rico, and the others concerned still-secret attempts to disrupt foreign intelligence services.

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