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**EX-AIDE LINKS F.B.I.
TO THEFTS FOR DATA**

WASHINGTON, July 6 (UPI) —An outgoing top Federal Bureau of Investigation official said today that he assumed that the former F.B.I. Director, J. Edgar Hoover, had directed some agents to carry out burglaries to gather intelligence. He denied charges that such activities were "laughable" or violated civil liberties.

William A. Sullivan, who retired Saturday as assistant F.B.I. director, made the remarks on the CBS program, "Face the Nation." He strongly defended Mr. Hoover and insisted that no F.B.I. director would ever threaten civil liberties. He said some recently questioned F.B.I. activities were necessary at the time as a wedge against Communism.

Asked if the F.B.I. agents ever conducted any burglaries, Mr. Sullivan replied that he never participated in a burglary or ordered one.

"But," he added, "I would assume that in the national intelligence field that has occurred in some offices. I think that this decision in the past was made by the top officials of the F.B.I., the director of the F.B.I.; it's had his approval. I think that today it probably would have to have the approval of the Attorney General.

Mr. Sullivan was clearly referring to approval by Mr. Hoover, who died in 1972 after many F.B.I. counterintelligence programs were terminated in the face of public criticism.