

# Levi's Plan

## To Curb FBI - II

### The FBI

Washington

Attorney General Edward Levi will impose guidelines on the FBI in three areas in an effort to halt abuses disclosed in 18 months of congressional inquiry, Capitol Hill and Ford administration sources said yesterday.

The guidelines will apply to investigations involving domestic security, civil disorder and White House employment, the sources said.

The attorney general, however, has temporarily abandoned a proposal to permit the bureau to take "preventive action" against plans of violence.

Last week Levi forwarded the guidelines he will authorize to the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights and to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

He has informed Senator Walter F. Mondale (Dem-Minn.) of the Senate intelligence committee, and Representative Don Edwards (Dem-Calif.), who is chairman of the House committee, that he intends to put the guidelines into effect "as soon as possible." Congressional sources said this would be March 17.

Representative Robert F. Drinan, (Dem-Mass.), who is a member of the House committee, made the text of guidelines available to the New York Times.

Drinan said that he believes the guidelines are "feeble and ineffectual" and rather than halting abuses by the FBI, they would formalize "many of the bureau's questionable activities."

In fact, however, Congress has little power to affect the issuance of the guidelines. Drinan and mem-

bers of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have said that the only way to assure a real change is for Congress to pass laws to prohibit unacceptable FBI intelligence and investigation methods.

The most significant difference between these final guidelines and the earlier drafts Levi presented to Capitol Hill is that the Department of Justice has dropped a proposal that would have permitted FBI agents to disrupt groups or individuals who plotted violent activities.

A draft version had carried the language that included the phrase "the FBI may undertake non-violent emergency measures to obstruct or prevent the use of force or violence," with the permission of the attorney general. It set down steps for the bureau to invoke preventive action.

At a luncheon for newsmen yesterday, Levi said that section "just never was understood in the press" and implied that it had been removed due to public pressure.

The three-part guidelines that Levi will issue try to limit FBI methods of choosing and conducting domestic security investigations for the White House and reporting on civil disorders and demonstrations.

Investigations can be conducted, the guidelines said, to get information on individuals or groups who are involved in violence or law-breaking with the intent of overthrowing the government or interfering with the activities or foreign governments or their representatives.

The probes can also be conducted, the guidelines said, if the groups are "substantially impairing for the purpose of influencing the U.S. government policies or decisions" the federal government, the state governments or interstate commerce.

Levi's guidelines appear to have tightened up ways the FBI would handle investigation requests from the White House.

*New York Times*