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Adv 6:30 p.m. EST Sunday Jan. 31

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McGovern-Hoover 500

By WALTER R. MEARS

AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON AP - Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., Sunday accused FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover of intolerable vindictiveness toward a former agent and urged a Senate investigation.

McGovern said he has asked the Senate subcommittee on administrative practice to investigate immediately the case of John F. Shaw, an FBI special agent who lost his job after writing a letter which included criticism of Hoover.

Such vindictiveness is intolerable on the part of an important federal official," McGovern said in a statement he plans to deliver Monday in the Senate.

Shaw was one of a group of special agents enrolled at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. After a professor criticized Hoover, Shaw wrote him a letter outlining his views on the FBI director and his administration of the agency.

Any reasonable man reading Shaw's letter will regard it for what it is—a well-intentioned attempt by a loyal agent of the FBI to engage in constructive criticism," McGovern said.

Indeed, Mr. Shaw's comments included a vigorous defense against those criticisms of the bureau which he regarded as ill-founded."

Hoover obtained a copy of the Shaw letter.

McGovern, who is a candidate for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination, said Shaw since "has been forced to undergo an ordeal which has included the termination of his employment by the FBI and the effective preclusion from further employment by the action of Mr. Hoover."

Hoover accepted Shaw's resignation from the FBI with the formal notation that it was "with prejudice" against the agent.

McGovern asked Hoover to explain, and the FBI director replied on Jan. 15:

The special agents were withdrawn from the college after Mr. Shaw, who took a course last summer at the college, reported that the professor would not give him ample opportunity to reply in class to derogatory statements about the FBI which this professor made in class.

I could only conclude that such an academic environment was not conducive to the objective pursuit of law enforcement studies," Hoover wrote. The voluntary resignation of Mr. Shaw was accepted with prejudice in view of the atrocious judgment he displayed in this matter."

McGovern wrote Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell on Jan. 20, saying Hoover's explanation appeared inconsistent with the facts of the case.

He asked Mitchell to investigate and to overrule Hoover's actions.

End Adv 6:30 p.m. EST Sun. Jan. 31

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