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Demo Leader Asks Hoover to Resign

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A.P. & U.P.

The immediate resignation of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was demanded in the House yesterday by House Democratic leader Hale Boggs of Louisiana.

Boggs accused Hoover and the FBI of tapping telephones of members of Congress and of stationing agents on Campuses to spy on students and faculty members.

He said the FBI has adopted "the tactics of Hitler's Gestapo and the Soviet Union" and added: "The time has come for the attorney general of the United States to ask for the resignation of J. Edgar Hoover."

"We are a great country because it's a free country. The way Mr. Hoover runs the country it's no longer a free country," Boggs declared.

DENIAL

Boggs' charge brought a denial from Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

"That is false and he should know it is false," Mitchell said. "Let me repeat categorically: the FBI has not tapped the telephone of any member of the House or Senate, now or in the past."

Mitchell, who is Hoover's immediate superior, called Boggs' attack on the FBI director "slanderous falsehoods and the most vicious kind of name calling." He said Boggs had "reached a new low in political dialogue" in comparing the FBI to the Soviet Union and to Hitler's Gestapo, and he demanded an immediate apology.

"As to Mr. Boggs' suggestion that I ask for Mr. Hoover's resignation," Mitchell said, "let me remind him that the decisions of the attorney general are based on

facts and not on false and irresponsible political allegations."

CHARGES

Boggs did not elaborate on the wiretapping charges in his speech. An aide said later that the democratic leader would stand by his statement but would not comment further.

Boggs is the second member of Congress publicly to accuse the FBI of tapping congressional telephones.

Speaking March 19 at a political dinner in Denver, Senator Joseph M. Montoya (Dem-N.M.) said: "There is wiretapping on capitol hill of the telephones of senators and congressmen."

Montoya was not available yesterday for comment. However, a spokesman in his office said that the senator has said that it is "common talk and common belief" in the senate cloakrooms that the telephones of "a good many senators" have been tapped.

Several members of congress have said privately yesterday that they felt that their telephones had been tapped but that they could not prove it.

Boggs is the first member of the Democratic congress-

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sional leadership to demand the resignation of the 76-year-old FBI director. However, other prominent democrats, including two presidential hopefuls, senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota and Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, recently asked that Hoover resign.

The boggs charges drew

immediate criticism from House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, who demanded that the majority leader present evidence to back up his accusations.

While the FBI "has made some mistakes," Ford said, its over all history is a "fine one" and the nation "has been fortunate to have had the FBI and Hoover as its head."