



Kleindienst calls Rep. Boggs 'sick'

WASHINGTON—A defender and a critic of J. Edgar Hoover agreed Wednesday Congress ought to investigate charges by House Democratic Leader Hale Boggs that the FBI had kept congressmen under surveillance and tapped their telephones.

Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, saying Boggs must have been "either sick or... not in possession of his faculties" when he made the charges, said an investigation was needed to prove Boggs wrong and end fears his allegations have aroused in Congress.

Rep. Bella Abzug, D-N.Y., a critic of the FBI and its 76-year-old director, introduced a bill meantime to have the House Judiciary Committee investigate Boggs' charges.

He first made them on the House floor Monday, accompanied by a demand that Hoover resign, and repeated them at a news conference Tuesday despite denials by the White House and Attorney General John N. Mitchell. Hoover was later quoted by GOP Senate Leader Hugh Scott as denying them himself.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Emanuel Celler, D-N.Y., said he would have to talk with his committee members and examine Kleindienst's statements and Mrs. Abzug's bill before speculating on the possibility of an investigation.

Although Boggs offered no evidence to substantiate his charges, he told newsmen Tuesday he would have more to say later.

Kleindienst said Hoover sent an FBI agent to Boggs' office Tuesday to ask for proof, but that the Louisiana congressman, the No. 2 Democrat in the House Leadership, refused to see him.

"...I would think that responsible members of the Congress would want to have an investigation of the whole operation of the FBI so that this matter can be settled once and for all," said Kleindienst.

He added that he could say for certain that the FBI had never tapped congressional telephones, but that he could not categorically deny the "surveillance" charge since that was a "broad term" and the FBI had

investigated congressmen "accused of the commission of a specific illegal act."

Asked why Boggs made the charges, Kleindienst replied: "Well, all of us in the Department of Justice have been asking ourselves that and we have come to the conclusion that he was either sick or he was not in possession of his faculties when he made that statement on the floor of the Congress. There is no other explanation so far as we are concerned."

At Berkeley

Leftist candidates elected

BERKELEY, Calif.—A coalition of radicals came close Wednesday to taking substantial control of the Berkeley city government in a "peaceful revolution" via the ballot box.

Among first objectives after Tuesday's election were establishing "community control" over the police force, "soak-the-rich" taxation and abolition of the city manager's office.

Voters elected by a margin of just 56 ballots out of 51,464 cast the city's first black mayor, Warren Widener, 32. He said the election was "a victory for change in this country."

Three of four new councilmen elected were candidates of a coalition of new left activists, militant racial groups, some liberal Democrats, students and street people.

That gave leftists, including Widener, four votes out of nine in the city council—but one seat is vacant and will be filled by appointment by the council. The other council members are conservatives and moderates open-minded to radical ideas.

Presumably, the council appointee will be a compromise candidate acceptable to the radicals as well as other factions—making possible passage of at least some of the radicals' proposals.

Although the electorate rejected by a

Nixon announces troop cuts

WASHINGTON—Declaring that "our goal is no American fighting and dying any place in the world," President Nixon announced Wednesday night he will withdraw an additional 100,000 U.S. troops from Vietnam by Dec. 1.

While ordering American troop strength in Southeast Asia reduced to 184,000 men—its lowest point since November, 1965—Nixon rejected persistent demands by Democrats that he set an early deadline for a total U.S. pullout.

But in response to growing pressure from Republicans as well as Democrats, the President asserted no less than four times during his 20-minute address to the nation that "American involvement in Vietnam is coming to an end."

In a speech broadcast from his White House office, Nixon said the success of the Cambodian and Laotian operations permitted him to increase the rate of U.S. troop withdrawals from 12,500 to about 14,300 men a month starting May 1, the end of the previous withdrawal phase.

The pullout of 100,000 men between May 1 and Dec. 1 will reduce the authorized troop strength by two-thirds

from the peak of 549,500 when Nixon took office in January, 1969.

The President again urged North Vietnam to enter serious peace negotiations and appealed in particular for "the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of war throughout Indochina."

He made no direct mention of criticism against him by Capt. Aubrey M. Daniel III, the Army prosecutor of Lt. William L. Calley Jr. who accused Nixon of intervening in the case and undermining military justice.

But the President noted public reaction to "reports of brutalities in Vietnam" and "atrocities charges" and took the occasion to defend the 2.5 million Americans who have fought in Vietnam with "courage" and "self-sacrifice."

"We can and should be proud of these men," Nixon said. "They deserve not our scorn but our admiration and our deepest appreciation."

Nixon dismissed demands by the House Democratic membership and several of his potential Democratic opponents for re-election in 1972 that he

set a deadline of December, 1972, for a total withdrawal from Vietnam. To do that, he said, "would serve the enemy's purpose and not our own."

He declared that his course of action is working—"Vietnamization has succeeded"—and would ensure that the United States can disengage while giving South Vietnam "a reasonable chance to survive as a free people."

Calling on the public not to "take what I say on faith" but to "look at the record," Nixon listed these gains as a result of the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese offensive in Southern Laos:

— "The South Vietnamese demonstrated that without American advisers they could fight effectively against the best troops North Vietnam could put in the field."

— "The South Vietnamese suffered heavy casualties. But, by most conservative estimates, the casualties suffered by the enemy were far heavier."

— "Most important, the disruption of enemy supply lines and the consumption of ammunition and arms in the battle has been even more damaging to the capability of the North Vietnamese to sustain major offensives in South Vietnam than were the operations in Cambodia 10 months ago."

Over-all, he said, by May 1 he will have brought home nearly half the American troops stationed in Vietnam when he took office. U.S. battle casualties were five times lower in the first three months of 1971 than they were in the same period two years ago, he said.

As a result of the Cambodian and Laotian operations and the accelerated troop withdrawals they permit Nixon said: "The American involvement in Vietnam is coming to an end. The day the South Vietnamese can take over their own defense is in sight. Our goal is a total American withdrawal from Vietnam. We can and we will reach that goal through our program of Vietnamization."

Stressing this point throughout his

speech, he said toward the conclusion: "In my campaign for the presidency, I pledged to end American involvement in this war. I am keeping that pledge. You should hold me accountable if I fail."

In speaking of a "total American withdrawal from Vietnam," Nixon seemingly contradicted other high administration officials who have acknowledged present plans to maintain a "residual" force of about 50,000 or fewer Americans in Vietnam once ground combat forces are withdrawn.

Nixon himself has said that American forces would remain in Vietnam as long as Hanoi continues to hold U.S. prisoners. He did not repeat that statement Wednesday night, but called on Hanoi to "end the barbaric use of our prisoners as negotiating pawns and to join us in a humane act that will free their men as well as ours."

America to send table tennis team to Red China

NAGOYA, Japan—The United States team playing in the world table tennis championships accepted an invitation Wednesday to visit Communist China, the first such organized American group to go to the Chinese mainland since 1949.

Graham B. Steenhoven, president of the U.S. Table Tennis Federation, said he and 15 other players and officials of the team will fly Friday by way of Hong Kong to the Communist Chinese capital of Peking. He said the visit would be for five or six days.

In Washington, U.S. State Department officials welcomed the invitation. President Nixon lifted the long-standing ban on travel by Americans to Communist China last December.

2-to-1 vote a revolutionary plan to provide "community control" of police, the issue was far from dead.

The new mayor opposed the plan, but he advocates another kind of change—creation of an elected commission to administer the police department.

The proposal rejected Tuesday would have divided Berkeley's police force into three autonomous departments—one for

black neighborhoods, one for whites and one for the area around the University of California.

The turnout of this plan, Widener said, "doesn't mean a thing. We're going to call a special election and we're going to restructure the department anyway," he added.

The city manager system was attacked by radicals as making the government non-responsive to community demands.

Soap Box Derby liberated

FAYETTEVILLE—Two ten-year-old girls received their "wheels" here Wednesday and claimed a new victory for women's liberation.

Deborah Boisseau and Sandra Sosa, with the backing of the National Organization for Women (NOW), won permission to enter the Soap Box Derby, previously limited only to boys, when they threatened a suit against the sponsors—the Chevrolet Division of General Motors.

"They capitulated pretty fast," said Carol Forbes, president of the local chapter of NOW. "The Soap Box Derby has now opened the doors for women to compete."

Tom McCoy, one of the partners of M&O Chevrolet here, presented the girls with sets of wheels to be used on the cars they will build for the competition.

McCoy said he turned down the girls last month when they tried to apply because the rules limited participation to boys. But he asked for an interpretation of the rules when the suit was threatened.

"I called our zone office and asked them if I was doing right in interpreting their rules," said McCoy. "They got a reading from derby headquarters in Detroit."

"Mason Bell, national director of the derby, made the decision to waive the boys-only rule."

McCoy said this was the first year girls had entered the race in Fayetteville, but he didn't know if it was a first nationwide.

"I would think it's been tried elsewhere because there are some 200 cities that have this race," said McCoy.

He said Deborah and Sandra actually were not the first girls on the registration list here for this year's local competition. He said 11-year-old Cynthia Hafer signed up last Saturday and received her wheels.

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