

# Bell blocked probe of FBI officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Griffin Bell undermined the Justice Department's investigation of the FBI and blocked possible indictments against eight middle-level FBI officials, the man who headed the probe said Thursday.

William Gardner told a Senate appropriations subcommittee that Bell effectively halted the probe by refusing indictments against an unspecified number of FBI officials who the task force believed were lying. Without the threat of perjury charges,

Gardner said, his task force had no leverage with which to force agents to tell the truth about allegedly illegal FBI activities.

Gardner said Bell also refused to let prosecutors seek indictments of eight mid-level officials on charges of wiretapping, mail theft, break-ins or black bag jobs, perjury and false statements to a government agency.

He said the officials, some of whom still work for the FBI, included three squad leaders, four special agents in charge of divisions and one assistant director.

Gardner, who resigned as head of the investigation task force last December, did not name any of the officials. Bell had no immediate comment.

Gardner, who is still with the Justice Department, said the task force not only found FBI agents involved in burglaries but also turned up a class in breaking and entering that was given by a "guest lecturer" at the FBI training academy in Quantico, Va.

Another former member of the task force, Stephen Horn, told the subcommittee Bell

pleaded with the FBI official to recant his testimony after the task force told the attorney general it wanted to indict the official for perjury.

"He told him he did not want to prosecute him because he was an FBI agent," Horn said of Bell. "He said it would be a disgrace to the FBI."

The statements by Gardner and Horn, and by two other task force members who resigned last year after a dispute with Bell, prompted Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., to question Bell's fitness for office.

## World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

### Study reveals military spending

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The world is spending almost \$1 billion a minute on arms, 20 times more than industrialized nations spend to help poorer countries, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said Thursday.

Current worldwide military expenditures total \$400 billion and "with the current rate it will top \$1 trillion by the end of the century," SIPRI Chairman Dr. Frank Barnaby said in releasing the group's 1978 edition of "World Armaments and Disarmament."

Barnaby, who is British, said worldwide military spending is twice as high as the yearly gross domestic product of the whole of Africa, about the same amount as the gross domestic product of all Latin America and 20 times more than the total annual development assistance given by industrialized nations to the developing world.

The two great superpowers account for more than half the world's military spending. In 1977, the U.S. defense budget was \$98 billion, compared with a CIA estimate of \$130 billion—at American prices—for the Soviet Union.

### Grandmother shoots janitor

DALLAS — A 56-year-old grandmother allegedly shot a school janitor to death Wednesday, apparently because he had spanked her grandson, police said.

The victim was identified as Woodrow Porter Jr., 38. Police said he died at the scene from .38-caliber bullet wounds in his neck and chest.

Police said that according to school officials, the woman came to the school about 3 p.m. and asked to speak to Porter. She reportedly had been told by her granddaughter that the man had spanked her 6-year-old grandson.

Porter was called to the administration office and admitted spanking the woman's grandson after he caught the boy bending the antenna on his car at his home Wednesday morning, police said.

Jack Castle, the school's head custodian, told police he thought the argument between the grandmother and Porter had ended after they met in the school office.

## Workers dead after scaffolding collapse

ST. MARYS, W. Va. (AP) — All 51 workers atop a scaffold inside a power company cooling tower were killed Thursday when the construction framework collapsed and the crew fell 168 feet to the ground in a twisted mass of steel and rubble.

Scott Widmeyer, press aide to Gov. Jay Rockefeller, said hours after the accident, "There are 51 confirmed dead."

Rescuers had to pull many of the victims from under the debris inside the base of the huge circular concrete tower.

A local fire station was pressed into service as a temporary morgue where relatives came to iden-

tify the dead, including eight members of one family working at the site.

John Pepler, a laborer standing on the ground in the middle of the tower when the disaster occurred, said the scaffold, wrapped around the inside of the tower, began peeling away and then fell.

Pepler, 38, said, "The first thing I heard was concrete falling I had just sent a basket...up. I looked over my left shoulder and I could see it falling. I could see people falling through the air and everything falling."

"They just fell like dominoes," a witness said. "I looked up and men were screaming and hollering."

## Afganistan rebels claim coup after air, armor battle

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Rebel forces in Afganistan claimed Thursday to have overthrown the authoritarian government of Pres. Mohammed Daoud

### Study reveals federal waste

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter was told Thursday that the government spends at least \$500 million a year on audio-visual activities marked by "waste and questionable procedures."

The White House released a year-long study that Carter had ordered in an effort to search for federal waste and inefficiency.

The study, which cost \$82,000, concludes that the government's production of films, videotapes and slides, television spots, radio recordings and film strips costs enough to run the State Department for six months.

The study turned up evidence of "a pattern of waste and questionable procedures." As a result, the Office of Management and Budget has set forth government-wide rules aimed at ending waste, duplication of effort and inefficiency in audio-visual programs.

One of the new rules even bars federal officials from succumbing to the temptation to become "ham actors" in their own films.

Here are some of the "horror stories" cited in the summary findings of the study, directed by former network television producer Robert Lissit:

- "An agency spent \$125,000 on a motion picture, but has lost track of the film. There is no record of where the film went, or whether anyone saw it."

- "It is impossible to develop an accurate count of the number of government television studios in the Washington area."

- A television station representative told the study group that if given a choice between broadcasting a government-produced program and color-bar tests, he "would run the color bars."

after armor and air attacks on the presidential headquarters and other government buildings in the capital of Kabul.

The rebel claim, broadcast on Kabul Radio, could not be immediately confirmed — many lines of communication were cut to the landlocked, mountainous nation. But in London, diplomatic dispatches and reports of monitored radio broadcasts from the Afghan capital said the armed forces had seized control and "wiped out" Daoud's family.

Many bodies were seen in Kabul's streets after several hours of heavy fighting, said diplomatic sources here in contact with eyewitnesses in Kabul.

Gen. Abdul Qadir, who described himself as chief of defense forces, said in the rebel broadcast monitored here that a military revolutionary council had taken control of the Texas-sized nation of 20 million people, wedged between Pakistan, Iran and the Soviet Union.

"For the first time power has

come into the hands of the people," he said. "The last remnant of imperialism and tyranny of the Mohammedzai has been put to an end."

The Mohammedzai is the clan of both Daoud and former King Muhammed Zahir Shah, who was overthrown by Daoud in 1973.

Western diplomats here said the broadcast might indicate the coup leaders are politically to the left of Daoud. They said Qadir previously had been known as vice commander of the air force.

Qadir declared the new regime would follow a foreign policy of "strict" non-alignment. Afghanistan traditionally has maintained close ties with the Soviet Union, its major trading partner, but also has received aid from the United States.

In Washington, the State Department and U.S. Ambassador Theodore Eliot ordered the 1,300 American residents of the Afghan capital to stay inside their homes. Department spokesman Hodding Carter said there was no report any Americans had been hurt.

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