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Charges Lacking in Substance

Sen. Joseph S. Clark, D-Pa., has been critical of the Central Intelligence Agency, claiming it has "achieved a position of power pretty close to the danger line." He did not, however, list any reasons why he thought this was true.

Clark then said the Federal Bureau of Investigation "poses a threat to the privacy of the individual and poses a threat by way of blackmail, direct or indirect, on anybody who has the effrontery to say anything unkind about J. Edgar Hoover."

These are two serious charges and Sen. Clark should have been able to cite specific examples of how and when the FBI was a threat to the privacy of an individual or when any threat of blackmail has been used. But he did not.

The FBI is a highly regarded organization with a record which puts fear into any criminal. It has been built into probably the finest law enforcement group in the world.

The FBI might interfere with the privacy of a wanted criminal by placing him in prison, but with the kind of record for responsibility built up by that bureau, the general indictment of Sen. Clark does not have much force.

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