

# Norris Rejects Jackson Attempt To Whitewash FBI

## Senator Renews His Attacks on G-Men for Illegal Raids in Detroit—Schweinhaut Report Conceals FBI Terror

By Adam Lapin

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 6.—Senator George W. Norris today renewed his attack on the flagrant violations of civil liberties by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The veteran Nebraska liberal sharply rejected the findings in the report white-washing the F.B.I., which was sent to him by Attorney General Robert Jackson.

Prepared by Henry Schweinhaut, head of the Civil Liberties unit of the Department of Justice, the report upheld the conduct of the F. B. I., in staging its notorious Detroit raids on the homes of persons charged with aiding the cause of Loyalist Spain.

Once one of Jackson's most important boosters in the capital, Senator Norris has consistently refused to condone the attorney general's support of the activities of the chief G-Man J. Edgar Hoover.

"I was very much disappointed with the report," Norris declared. "It was not in accordance with the facts."

"These persons were not criminals," the aged Senator said. "Yet they were chained, denied access to their attorneys and deprived of their rights as American citizens."

### JACKSON'S WHITEWASH

Senator Norris's statement indicated that liberal Senators and Congressmen who have been critical of the F.B.I., will not be appeased or halted by the Schweinhaut report.

In the opinion of many of them, the report was simply a case of the Department of Justice whitewashing itself.

This was the second time Jackson has found it necessary to exonerate the F.B.I. for its brutal treatment of 16 defendants during the Detroit raids.

The first time he okayed the activities of the F. B. I., after having confined himself to interviewing only employes of the Department of Justice who had been directly involved in the raids.

When this proved too raw and resulted in sharp criticism from Senator Norris, Jackson found it necessary to conduct a more elaborate whitewash and sent Schweinhaut to Detroit to conduct an investigation.

"That the agents in Detroit acted within their instructions, and exercised their discretion in good faith, seems clear to me" Jackson said in sending the Schweinhaut report to Senator Norris. "Under such circumstances they are entitled to my support."

Making a general defense of the F.B.I., Jackson declared that if civil liberties are "endangered in this country it is not by the F.B.I." He said he was "confident that

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the more the operations of the bureau are exploded the more it will appear that its vigorous and effective work for law enforcement is conducted with a fundamental purpose to observe the rights of defendants."

Schweinhaut in his report put the stamp of his approval on many of the patent violations of the civil liberties by the F.B.I., during the Detroit raids.

He said that the selection of 5 A. M. as the time to make the arrests "seems perfectly justifiable" and offered as defense the contention that had the defendants been arrested at night "adequate sleeping quarters would not have been available except in jail."

### DAMAGING ADMISSIONS

Similarly, he described the breaking down of doors of private residences in order to make the arrests as "reasonable under the circumstances."

The head of the Civil Liberties unit attempted to dismiss charges of brutality against the F.B.I. agents and said that their treatment of the defendants "is not subject to justifiable criticism." On a number of points Schweinhaut was forced, however, to make damaging admissions.

He defended the F.B.I. for searching private homes and seizing papers without a searching warrant, but then admitted that the conduct of the F.B.I. agents went counter to a recent decision of the Supreme Court in limiting the right of seizure.

Schweinhaut also admitted that the defendants in Detroit were accorded "insufficient" opportunity to consult with their attorneys. In connection with some of the most important charges, Schweinhaut rested his defense on the contention that the F.B.I. was not directly to blame.

For example, he maintained that the persons who were arrested, were chained together not by the F.B.I., but by the U. S. Marshall in Detroit—who is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice.

He said that he could not comment on whatever or not the bail which was fixed was too high because the decision was made by the judge. Schweinhaut admitted however, that the request for \$20,000 bail for each of the defendants was made by the U. S. District Attorney—another employe of the Department of Justice.