

9-23-75
NYT



United Press International

Sara Jane Moore at an interview last spring

SUSPECT ASSERTED SHE HELPED F. B. I.

Also Volunteered for Civil
Rights and Leftist Groups
and Worked for Hearst

By HENRY WEINSTEIN
Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 22—

Sara Jane Moore, the woman arrested here today after a gun was fired near President Ford, recently contended that she once was an informant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a volunteer worker among several civil rights and leftist groups.

She was a volunteer for the People-In-Need free food program that Randolph A. Hearst set up in an attempt to gain the freedom of his daughter, Patricia. She also worked for a time as a bookkeeper for Mr. Hearst's San Francisco Examiner.

Mrs. Moore discussed her background after presenting herself to The New York Times for an interview last May. Her language reflected the upper-middle-class Virginia background she described. But she appeared to be confused and disturbed as she discussed her activities for hours at a health-food restaurant and in a park.

She said she was concerned for her own safety and that of her 8-year-old son, with whom she lived in a Mission District apartment in San Francisco. She said she suspected that she was under surveillance by both the F.B.I. and persons of the political left whom she would not identify.

She wanted to talk about

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

her work as an F.B.I. informant and how she became disenchanted with the bureau. She said she felt pressure to do so because her "friends on the left" knew that she had been an agent and she had to make a clean break publicly.

She said she had been a volunteer in a variety of organizations, ranging from civil rights groups to leftist organizations studying Marx, Lenin and Mao Tse-tung.

However, she said she had learned most of her leftist ideology from F.B.I. agents who taught it to her in the hope that it would facilitate her infiltration activities.

An F.B.I. spokesman in Washington confirmed tonight that Mrs. Moore served the bureau's San Francisco field office as a "security" informant between June, 1974, and last June.

The spokesman said that Mrs. Moore had been given the designation "potential security informant" by the F.B.I., and had "furnished unsolicited information" on radical activities in the Bay Area to bureau agents.

Mrs. Moore's classification as a "potential" informant was in accordance with a standard F.B.I. procedure requiring all new informants to be evaluated for reliability for about a year before they are accepted as full-fledged informants.

The spokesman said that the F.B.I. had terminated the woman's relationship when she was quoted in The Berkeley Barb as saying she had been furnishing information to the F.B.I.

Both in the restaurant and in Dolores Park, where the interview took place, she continually looked around as if to see whether someone were watching or listening.

She stopped briefly at her

home to check on her son, Frederick Jr. As she got out of the car, she waved to one of her neighbors, Joyce Halverson, who had been called before a Federal grand jury investigating the self-styled Symbionese Liberation Army a year earlier.

Mrs. Moore, 45 years old, said she became affiliated with the F.B.I. in the spring of 1974 after going to work for the People-In-Need free food program that was set up in an abortive attempt to gain the freedom of Patricia Hearst, who had been kidnapped by the S.L.A.

Mrs. Moore said she had conveyed information to Mr. Hearst both directly and through intermediaries. She said that she had refused to take money from the F.B.I.

She said she worked at The San Francisco Examiner as a bookkeeper for about two months after the People-in-Need program ended.

Wells Smith, general manager of The Examiner, confirmed Mrs. Moore's employment there. He said she was paid \$200 a week on a voucher basis and was not on the newspaper's regular payroll.

Mr. Smith said that Mrs. Moore had helped to clean up problems at the People-In-Need program and that she "seemed to know more about what was going on there than anyone else."

He added that she seemed to be "a very capable woman, very natural and normal."

Mr. Smith said that he thought Mrs. Moore "could well have been" an F.B.I. informant "because of her connection with people such as Popeye Jackson."

Mrs. Moore said she had met Wilbert (Popeye) Jackson while she worked for People-In-Need. About three months ago Mr. Jackson, the controversial head of the United Prisoners Union, was murdered in front of his home after returning from a party sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

Continued on Page 27, Column 1