

Michael Justesen, 27, and Mark Perry, 25, Gunderson said.

... who is seeking the Republican nomination for governor, said he was told by training.

Dallas Times Herald

Nov 21, 1977

FBI unveiling vast array of secrets

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI is spilling 53,000 pages of secrets about its efforts to harass civil rights and radical political groups between 1956 and 1971.

The files, being made public in response to requests under the Freedom of Information Act, are expected to yield fresh details about the widely criticized counterintelligence programs, called Cointelpro.

Although the bureau has turned over several thousand pages of Cointelpro files to various groups during the last five years, the latest action represents the biggest single chunk of Cointelpro material ever.

Cointelpro was the FBI's "dirty tricks" operation. It was a campaign to wreak havoc among militants of the right and left by sending anonymous letters, attempting to get activists fired from their jobs, fostering dissension among political allies and spreading derogatory rumors about militant leaders.

FBI Director Clarence Kelley last year issued a public apology for the bureau's past abuses including some Cointelpro actions. Former Atty. Gen. Edward Levi once said of the tricks, "All of them were foolish and some of them were outrageous."

Kelley and other FBI officials insist that no Cointelpro operations have been carried out since 1971.

The operation began in 1956 when then-Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered a campaign against the Communist Party U.S.A. The Socialist Workers Party, the Ku Klux Klan, "black extremists" and the

New Left became targeted for FBI disruption in the the 1960s.

The FBI tapped the telephones of Dr. Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader and Nobel Prize laureate, and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference, bugged their rooms and offices and leaked derogatory information about King's personal life.

A previously disclosed FBI memo said one purpose of the campaign against black activists was to "prevent the rise of a 'messiah' who could unify and electrify the militant black nationalist movement."

The FBI subjected to harassment the moderate SCLC, the Congress on Racial Equality and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee as well as the militant Black Panthers.

The New York offices of the Socialist Workers Party and its youth affiliate, the Young Socialist Alliance, were burglarized by FBI agents 92 times in the early 1960s.

FBI agents bragged of success in getting an Austin, Tex., school teacher fired in 1970 after they told a local policeman that she had once run for public office as a Socialist Workers candidate in Michigan. The policeman informed the local school board about Evelyn Rose Sell and her contract was not renewed.

Called to account for the counterintelligence programs, FBI officials contended that such tactics were adopted in a frustrated response to pressure from the White House, Congress and the public to do something quickly to stop the violence of a turbulent era.