

# They inform for the pay -

CDN W34/76

By Kathryn Christensen

Granny is an informant whose motive isn't money.

"I do it because I'm fighting for America; fighting the radicals and Communists who are trying to destroy this country from within," the matronly woman explained. "I'm a police spy and I'm proud of it."

Fear of reprisals leads Granny to use that pseudonym instead of her real name. She first surfaced last summer when The Daily News revealed that the Chicago police intelligence division has for several years used a network of civilians to infiltrate and inform on various religious, educational, political and community organizations.

Granny was one individual in that network and, though she says she is no longer paid for

her information, she still regularly supplies police with information.

"When my 21-year-old son found out I'm a spy he was incredulous. He said, 'Mother, how could you? I thought the only people you knew were church people.'

"I just told him that, unfortunately, it's some of those so-called church people who are involved in destroying America. And I told him, too, that some of my best friends are informants."

**GRANNY BEGAN FEEDING** information to the police in 1969 and was paid about \$25 a month for her work, she said.

"I tried the FBI once, but I was very disappointed in their response. They told me to

## Informants

Last of four articles

send them my material and they would copy it, but that was that. I never heard from them. As far as I'm concerned, we (informants) get much better response from the police here: those poor boys have a tough job and they know what to do with the things we tell them."

Granny said the information she supplies police usually has to do with CAP (Citizens Action Program) and senior citizens organizations controlled by Communists.

"Whenever I have something, I call my

## - or 'patriotism'

contact (police) officer and he picks it up, usually on the street, because my husband doesn't approve of my doing this. Or my contact will call me sometimes, though he doesn't exactly give me assignments any more. And I don't file written reports with him any more, either, since this whole thing (the use of informants by police) came out in the newspaper.

"Just the other day, for instance, I told my officer about something being planned for the beginning of March. I gave him documents pinpointing the people involved in some of these radical groups."

**THE PRACTICE** of paying civilian informants isn't confined to the Chicago Police Department. Civic organizations and police de-

partments in cities in Wisconsin, California, Kentucky and other states have established procedures in which citizens may anonymously — usually by code number — send in "useful" information and be reimbursed for it.

Federal agencies have even more structured practices of paying informants. It has been estimated that informers now working for law-enforcement agencies in this country number in the tens of thousands.

(The amount of payment varies, but in the late '60s two informers shared \$36,500 for helping police and the FBI spring a trap in an attempted bombing of a Mississippi home. Police killed a woman and wounded a man

Turn to Page 18, Column 3

# 'Patriot' spying

Continued from Page 17 *CDN W 2/4/76*

associated with the Ku Klux Klan in that situation.)

**MOST FAMILIAR**, however, is the IRS system of rewarding individuals for information regarding possible tax-law violations.

Leon Levine, a spokesman for the IRS in Washington, said the agency pays two kinds of informants.

"We have a statutory basis for making two kinds of payments," Levine said. "A person who gives us information that leads to our getting more taxes, penalties or interest is entitled to file a claim for reward and we also have the cultivated informant."

The rewards are computed on a percentage of the amount recovered, but IRS officials will not give any details about what the percentage is.

**AN EXAMPLE OF** the first type of informant is a bookkeeper or other person who alerts the IRS to a discrepancy on a tax return. If a claim for reward is filed — and approved—the informant may receive a percentage of the recovery.

In 1974, Levine said, 106,000 items of information were received in that category. More than 700 of those items resulted in criminal-tax investigations that led to the recovery of more than \$16.8 million. And 538 informants shared \$463,000 in rewards.

Cultivated informants, Levine said, are used "when the normal kind of approach we'd make in a tax audit or investigation is not going to yield data, such as in illicit activity where neither books nor records are kept."

He had no figures available for the amount of money paid to such informants, but said "they are not paid by retainer or put on per diem; they're paid for the value of the infor-

participants in a crime who realize the \$50,000 if allowed can be more than their "cut.")

mation they supply."

**IN A SIMILAR MANNER**, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as well as the Bureau of Customs pays informants.

ATF pays "for services rendered" that result in "successful" investigations, said Bill Richardson, assistant regional director for criminal enforcement. "We pay from \$25 to several hundred dollars for information; the amount is based on results."

A Customs spokesman said that agency's payments amount to 25 per cent (up to \$50,000) of the amount recovered.

(In some cases, the Customs official said, the reward has been claimed by potential par-