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Post 1/26/79

Informant Program Probed

KANSAS CITY-Allegations that some FBI agents were abusing the bureau's informant program have led to an investigation of the program in the Kansas City office, according to a copyrighted story in the Kansas City Star.

The newspaper reported that agent Stephen S. Travis and an informant, Robert J. Martin, will be key figures in the probe. Travis, Martin, and another agent, Alan H. Rotton, were implicated in an investigation last summer into thefts from railroad cars near Eve, Mo. Rotton, who had been

transferred to the FBI's Washington headquarters, committed suicide Oct. 19, three days after the allegations were made public.

Sources said the investigation could have a significant impact on guidelines for the informant program, regarded as the core of the FBI's crimesolving success.

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