

JACK ANDERSON**The FBI's Mickey Mouse Connection**

Exactly 25 years ago, millions of American children watched the premiere of Walt Disney's newest creation — the "Mickey Mouse Club." The youngsters didn't know it, but someone was watching over their shoulder. The FBI was monitoring the program.

While it would, of course, be ridiculous to imagine J. Edgar Hoover sitting in front of his television set sporting a big-eared Mouseketeer hat, internal FBI files reveal that the late director was a close—and critical—viewer of the "Mickey Mouse Club."

Hoover did not always approve of what he saw. Why? Well, in Mouseketeer parlance, "M-I-C-K-E-Y. Y? Because we don't like you. M-O-U-S-E!"

The Disney-Hoover connection began the year before the "Mickey Mouse Club" was formed. A 1954 memo from the Los Angeles FBI office informed Hoover: "Mr. Disney has volunteered representatives of this office complete access to the facilities of Disneyland for uses in connection with official matters and for recreational purposes."

Two months later, Disney was approved as a regular FBI contact. So far, so good.

But in 1957, a committee within the FBI approached Disney on the possibility that he might film a segment on the FBI laboratory for use on the "Mickey Mouse Club" show.

Hoover was outraged. The committee "should not have done this without prior approval," Hoover penciled on the memo, adding: "This is a most embarrassing and unfortunate situation. No one should initiate such a move without clearance here."

In a subsequent memo, a Hoover

aide explained the director's objection. "It is not felt that the "Mickey Mouse Club" is the proper place to publicize this . . . It comes on at 5:30 p.m. each weekday and is aimed at the 'small fry.' If we are going to do this, we should do it right, and try and get Disney to do a one-hour Disneyland show, which at present is at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday night. This show has an adult and juvenile appeal."

The obliging Disney agreed, and earned the following commendation in his FBI dossier: "Appears to be a very reliable individual and has been quite friendly with the FBI."

Alas, Disney's reliability soon suffered a setback in Hoover's eyes, when he failed to let the FBI check four Mickey Mouse newsreel segments on the bureau before they were shown to the nation's moppets.

"Obviously," said an internal memo reviewed by Hoover, "The mishandling on the part of the Disney Studios and failure to live up to their agreement will be taken into consideration when future approaches are made to the bureau by this outfit."

Hoover penciled a grim notation on the memo. "No further cooperation is to be extended to the Disney Studios."

From that point on, the once happy relationship between Disney and Hoover fell apart like a Donald Duck picnic. In 1961, the bureau's studio-watchers were alarmed by a Disney movie called "Moon Pilot." "Discreet inquiries" showed that the film made the FBI look like—well, like a Mickey Mouse operation.

"Most references to the FBI are handled inaccurately and some are ludicrous," stated a memo to Hoover aide

Cartha (Deke) DeLoach. "The Air Force officer, for example, is continually outwitting surveilling agents and the agents are generally pictured as bumbling, heavyfooted incompetents."

Hoover ordered the Los Angeles FBI office to protest, and the FBI's name was changed to "Federal Security" in the finished movie.

Practicing Preacher—Last year, the Internal Revenue Service reported that Uncle Sam loses up to \$17 billion in taxes each year because of unreported income. Self-employed workers are major offenders in this area.

Now investigators for Rep. Sam Gibbons (D-Fla.) have found that some federal agencies do a rotten job of reporting the income they pay to consultants and other self-employed outsiders. With the help of the General Accounting Office, they checked the employer-submitted Form 1099s of five agencies—the General Services Administration, the Energy, Interior and Navy Departments and the IRS itself.

The investigators found that four of the agencies submitted only minuscule numbers of 1099s, despite the millions of dollars they pay for outside services each year. The only agency that was filing 1099s conscientiously was, fittingly, the IRS.

Watch on Waste—Art Buchwald once wrote that the single most prized status symbol in Washington is free, reserved parking space. Congress has been eagerly—and expensively—pursuing this perk ever since. The latest manifestation was the purchase of two parking lots for House members—for \$8 million. That works out to more than \$18,000 per congressman.