

# Judge Accuses F.B.I. of Providing 'False' Data to Socialists

By ARNOLD H. LUBASCH

A Federal district judge in Manhattan declared yesterday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had provided a "false" information regarding a "crucial" aspect of a major lawsuit by the Socialist Workers Party against the F.B.I. and other Government agencies.

At a court hearing, Judge Thomas P. Griesa cited a written response by the bureau to questions submitted by the Socialist Workers about party documents that informers had obtained.

The bureau said in its response to the party's questions two months ago that one of its informers had obtained material about the Socialist Workers that was available to the party's members and was distributed to the public.

But the F.B.I. answers failed to disclose that the informer, who was later identified as Timothy Redfearn, had ob-

tained some material by burglarizing the party's offices in Denver.

Judge Griesa said that the omission of this important information raised the possibility that "there might be widespread misrepresentations" in the bureau's answers, and that the full information might not be known until the party received the files on informers.

### 'Haste Was Not Excuse'

John S. Siefert, a lawyer for the Government who sought to delay turning over some files on informers, conceded that "discrepancies" existed, but he said that the bureau had responded to the questions in "great haste" to expedite the procedures.

"Haste was not excuse," Judge Griesa replied. "I can draw no other conclusion than that the person making that answer intentionally omitted materials that were unfavorable to the Government when he tried

to summarize that file." "Let's face it," the Judge continued. "Let's not waste time talking about haste. That was absolutely inexcusable."

The judge stressed that the omitted information had come to light only because Mr. Redfearn had been arrested in Denver, where he disclosed that he was an F.B.I. informer, and that he had burglarized the offices of the Socialist Workers as recently as July 7.

"Without the somewhat fortuitous July activities of Mr. Redfearn, leading up to the disclosure of those documents," Judge Griesa said, "this falsity in these answers would not have been known."

### Illegal Activity Charged

"I can't imagine anything more important for this case," the judge said, referring to the answers that the F.B.I. had submitted about the activities that its informers conducted against the Socialist Workers.

The party, a leftist group that says it has 2,500 active members, is suing the F.B.I. and other agencies for \$37 million in damages for allegedly conducting illegal activities against the party and its members.

As a part of the procedures to discover evidence for a trial of the suit, Judge Griesa has ordered the F.B.I. to turn over several files on informers to the party's lawyers.

The Redfearn file, the first one that the F.B.I. released, contained documents disclosing

that the informer had carried out four other burglaries of the party's offices in Denver long before the burglary last month, according to Leonard B. Bowdin, a lawyer for the party.

The F.B.I., which turned over Mr. Redfearn's file last Friday in Denver, is scheduled to provide additional files of six other informers under the judge's orders. But the judge agreed to hear further arguments today on the Government's request to postpone delivery of some of the files.