

Court Tells F.B.I. to Release Files in Socialist Workers Suit

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By ARNOLD H. LUBASCH

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was ordered by a judge yesterday to release all its files on six alleged F.B.I. informers who were identified by the Socialist Workers Party.

Judge Thomas P. Griesa issued the order in Federal District Court in Manhattan at the request of Leonard Boudin, a lawyer for the party, which is conducting an extensive lawsuit against the bureau and other Government agencies.

John S. Siffert, a lawyer for the Government, argued that informers should be given an opportunity to make any objections they might have regarding the release of their files before the material is turned over to the Socialist Workers Party.

But the judge ruled that the bureau must give the files to the party by Aug. 17 and that the only information that could be deleted would be the names of other informers who had not yet been identified.

The six individuals who have been identified as informers by the Socialist Workers Party were named by the party's lawyers in a court document.

Six Persons Named

The document said that the individuals serving as informers were John Neal in Norman, Okla., from June 1966 to March 1975; Stephen H. Cooper in Indianapolis, from January 1972 to April 1973; John Hollowell in San Diego, for many years ending about 1973; Orrie W. Norton in Minneapolis, Minn., for many years ending about 1969 or 1970; James Nilson in Bloomington, Ind., during 1973; and Rodney Hertz in Washington, about 1967 or 1968.

According to the Socialist Workers Party, three of these have acknowledged that they were informers, but the party did not disclose how it had originally identified any of the six persons named.

The first file of an F.B.I. informer that was ever turned over to the party involved Timothy Redfearn, identified as an informer in Denver, where he reportedly burglarized the party's offices on July 7.

Burglaries by F.B.I.

Mr. Redfearn's file was given to the party's lawyers last Friday by order of Judge Griesa, who is presiding over the lawsuit that the party filed three years ago for millions of dollars in damages against the F.B.I. and other agencies accused of illegal activities against the Socialist Workers.

In response to discovery motions growing out of the suit, the bureau has turned over documents acknowledging widespread activities against

the Socialist Workers, including more than 90 burglaries of the party's Manhattan headquarters a decade ago.

The party's lawyer, Mr. Boudin, told Judge Griesa at yesterday's court session on the continuing discovery motions that the Government had withheld significant documents about informers and had not told the truth about the available information.

Mr. Boudin said this was clear from material contained in the Redfearn file, which was turned over last Friday in Denver.

Replying for the Government, Mr. Siffert conceded that previous disclosures "don't appear to be totally complete," but he told the judge that "any unintentional discrepancies" in the information that had been released would be corrected.

Judge Griesa described the disclosure of information about informers as "an extremely important issue in this case."

In addition to the files on named informers, the Socialist Workers Party is also seeking those on 19 informers who had been identified by number, but not by name, in disclosures by the Government.

The F.B.I. vehemently objects to releasing information that would identify informers who have not yet been named, according to the Government, and Judge Griesa said he would have to hear further arguments before deciding this issue.