

REAL BREAK-INS ROLE IN BREAK-INS

Agent Testifies to 50 to 90 Burglaries in 7 Years at Socialist Workers Offices

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, July 28 — An agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has testified under oath that he participated in "between 50 and 90" burglaries of the Socialist Workers Party headquarters in New York, according to a deposition made public today.

George P. Baxtrum Jr., a special agent since 1946, who is now attached to the bureau's Milwaukee office, said that between 1958 and 1965 he made "surreptitious entries" into the party's headquarters at 118 University Place in Manhattan to search desks, photograph documents and, on occasion, place microphones for electronic eavesdropping.

Admission Under Oath

Mr. Baxtrum, in a deposition taken in New York last June, said he had been told that each burglary and the placing of the microphones had been authorized by the bureau's headquarters in Washington. This is the first time an F.B.I. agent has admitted under oath participating in burglaries, though the bureau acknowledged the burglaries in the socialist party's case earlier this year.

Mr. Baxtrum also testified that he was presented commendations for the information he had obtained through the burglaries.

Mr. Baxtrum is one of the defendants in a \$37 million damage suit filed by the Socialist Workers against present and former Government officials. Other defendants include

John F. Malone, who was special agent in charge of the New York office in the period of the burglaries, and Arthur J. Green Jr., an agent who along with Mr. Baxtrum was assigned to the S.W.P. case.

Meanwhile, the Society of Former Special Agents of the F.B.I. Inc., has created a fund to help pay for the legal defenses of present and former agents accused of burglaries in the line of duty. The society has retained Edward P. Morgan, a Washington lawyer and former chief inspector of the bureau, to organize the defense for any agent accused of burglaries in the current Justice Department investigation.

To Defend Agents

Mr. Morgan said in an interview that the society would take the action for agents who had taken action in what were called national and domestic security investigations that they believed in "good faith" had been ordered by the proper authorities in the bureau's headquarters and the Justice Department.

The Justice Department is investigating allegations that bureau agents committed, as recently as last year, burglaries that would be within the statute of limitations and could result in felony indictments.

Mr. Baxtrum testified that the last entry he was involved in took place in 1965. He said that he had been assigned to investigate the Socialist Workers when he arrived in the New York field office in 1953 and was first asked to commit an illegal entry in November 1958. He said the first order was given orally by his "section chief" in New York.

"It is my recollection that I was told we would probably have access to national security

information which we did not have access through any other means, by the use of surreptitious entry," he said.

Mr. Baxtrum said that between his first entry, in November 1958 and 1965, he obtained individual authorization from his section chief in New York for every entry. He said they were performed at three-and-four-week intervals, when the agents determined the Socialist Workers might have made policy changes.

Mr. Baxtrum said the bulk of the burglaries he had been involved in occurred at the party's headquarters on University Place. But he added that he had also secretly entered the headquarters of the Young Socialist Alliance, a group associated with the party, at 404th Avenue north of Greenwich Village. He said on several occasions the agents had placed microphones in the offices and mentioned to the walls to listen to socialist meetings.

He said they once searched Wurzburger's Hall, an auditorium the Socialist Workers rented on the East Side. In another instance, he said, the bureau searched a hotel where the party was having a convention, but he said he could not remember the hotel's name.

Mr. Baxtrum said one of the few times he met Mr. Malone had been when he himself was given a commendation for information obtained by illegal entry.

"I was called to his office and presented with a commendation for the information of value to the United States which had been obtained. He congratulated me," Mr. Baxtrum said.

Mr. Baxtrum said teams of five or six agents entered Socialist Workers headquarters during the searches while five or six kept watch outside.

BURGLARY REPORT DELAYED BY F.B.I.

Police in Denver Not Told of
Raid on Socialist Workers
Party for Eight Days

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
Special to The New York Times

DENVER, July 29.—Officials of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington delayed for eight days earlier this month the decision to report to the police here that one of the bureau's paid informers had burglarized the Denver office of the Socialist Workers Party, according to a Federal official familiar with the matter.

The decision in Washington to allow Theodore Rosack, the head of the bureau office here, to tell what he knew to the Denver police came on July 14, one day after the informer, Timothy Redfearn, was arrested in connection with an unrelated burglary of an east Denver home.

The bureau's possible involvement in, and subsequent reaction to, the Socialist Workers Party burglary is under investigation by the district attorney here and Justice Department lawyers in Washington. One official suggested today that the bureau's decision to come forth had resulted from its fear that Mr. Redfearn might tell the police about the burglary in an attempt to have the other charges against him reduced.

Investigators and others knowledgeable about Mr. Redfearn and his activities said today that, although his theft of hundreds of documents from the Socialist Workers on July 7 had not been directed by the F.B.I., the dual inquiries were focusing on how much the bureau, and particularly John Almon, the agent to whom Mr.

Redfearn had turned over the documents, and why they kept their knowledge from the police.

Similar Burglary in '73

Sources also disclosed that while Mr. Redfearn was an F.B.I. informer he carried out a similar burglary of the Socialist Workers quarters in late 1973, and that although he gave the stolen documents to the bureau his responsibility for that crime was never made known to the police.

A Federal district judge in New York City yesterday ordered the bureau to produce its files on Mr. Redfearn's five-year career as an informer and on the most recent burglary of the Socialist Workers quarters. The documents are to be given to party lawyers tomorrow, shortly before Mr. Redfearn is scheduled to give a deposition in connection with the party's lawsuit against the Government.

An F.B.I. spokesman in Washington said he would have no comment on any aspect of the Redfearn case, and Mr. Almon's attorney, Gerald Clark, declined to return a reporter's telephone call. But through interviews with various officials here, the following account of recent events was obtained:

At about 4:30 A.M. July 7, Mr. Redfearn sawed through a padlock on the party's office door and removed four large cartons of party files.

Later that day, he called Mr. Almon, and told him what he had done.

Mr. Almon allegedly examined the documents in the trunk of Mr. Redfearn's car, which Mr. Redfearn had parked in front of the bureau's office here, but did not then take possession of them. Mr. Almon reportedly notified Mr. Rosack, who telephoned his superiors in Washington to seek advice on whether to report the crime.

It was not until July 15 that the Washington office directed Mr. Rosack to make the report. The following day, the Denver police recovered what they believed were all of the files stolen six days earlier by Mr. Redfearn.

Unknown to the police, however, Mr. Redfearn had withheld from them some 50 pages of stolen Socialist Workers documents, and later that day he mailed them to Mr.

Almon, who is now holding the documents for the Justice Department and that Mr. Almon's return them to the party had also become a facet of the investigation.

'Pressure' Over Fee

Mr. Redfearn, a 25-year-old former graduate student, Mr. Redfearn told friends that he had been "under pressure" from the bureau to "produce" in order to retain his \$400-a-month informer's fee.

Mr. Redfearn is currently on probation in connection with a third, nonpolitical burglary he committed early last year. According to court records here, he has been under a psychiatrist's care for several years for "intermittent depression."

In the case of the Dec. 31, 1973, burglary of a house here owned by several party members, sources said that documents removed from the house by Mr. Redfearn had been photocopied by Boyd Adsis, who preceded Mr. Almon as Mr. Redfearn's controlling agent, and who has since retired from the bureau. That burglary under study by FBI investigators as well, although it, too, was undertaken by Mr. Redfearn on his own.

The law enforcement official said that Mr. Redfearn passed

a polygraph examination administered recently on behalf of Dale Tooley, the district attorney here in connection with the July 7 burglary. The S.W.P. chapter here and its youth arm, the Young Socialist Alliance, together have about 60 members. Mr. Redfearn, who had been informing on those two organizations since 1973, declined to talk about his activities.

The Justice Department is currently investigating a number of burglaries allegedly carried out by F.B.I. agents in the New York City area in 1972 and 1973. The Redfearn matter, however, is "just a case to become a part of that inquiry in which burglaries were committed by a paid bureau informer, rather than a special agent."