

FBI Here Recruits Youth, Stolen 'Files' Disclose

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The Philadelphia office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation recruited youthful informants for payments that could exceed \$300 a month to spy on New Left groups, according to one of the purported documents taken during a raid on the FBI office in Media.

The informants, part time and full time, were to be 18 to 21 and to be part of an increasing surveillance of New Left groups.

"We have been blocked off from this critical age group in the past," the document said. "Let us take advantage of this opportunity."

Purported copies of the FBI documents have been mailed to several congressmen and newspapers in recent days.

The Justice Department has confirmed that documents received by the Washington Post this week were copies of some of those taken in the Media burglary March 6.

Mailed to The Bulletin

A group called the "Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI" has claimed credit for the burglary of an estimated 1,000 documents and files. Copies of some of the documents and files were mailed to The Bulletin yesterday by a Cambridge, Mass., based organization, Resist, which was formed four years ago to promote draft resistance unions.

Resist said it received the information anonymously and is distributing it to show that the surveillance done by the FBI and the information it gathers "constitutes a basic violation of the civil rights of both individuals and groups working for a social change."

Agent Won't Comment

Among the copies was the first edition of a one-page newsletter called "New Left Notes," dated Sept. 16, 1970, and scheduled to be published at "irregular intervals . . . as needed to keep those persons

dealing with New Left problems' up to date in an informal way."

It was signed by J. O'Connor.

Special Agent James O'Connor, attached to the New Left desk at the local FBI office, refused to discuss it.

"I have no comment in that regard," he said.

In addition to the "New Left Notes," the copies mailed to The Bulletin also contained a request for surveillance on a local professor, a copy of a letter sent to the Soviet Embassy by a Midwest professor who wanted to visit Moscow with a troop of senior Boy Scouts and reports by an area police chief to the FBI on a meeting with college officials from suburban Philadelphia.

Code Word for Informers

The "New Left Notes" discusses the need not only for
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young informants, and what they can be paid, but this summary of a recent meeting by law enforcement officials on the New Left, the general heading for antiwar, draft resistance, militant black and Socialist groups.

"There was a pretty general consensus that more interviews with these subjects and hangers-on are in order for plenty of reasons, chief of which are it will enhance the paranoia endemic in these circles and will further serve to get the point across there is an FBI agent behind every mailbox.

"In addition, some will be overcome by the overwhelming personalities of the contacting agent and volunteer to tell all — perhaps on a continuing basis."

The informants were to be known as PSI's, for part timers, and SI's, for full time informants.

Teen-Agers 'Okayed'

According to the newsletter,

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the use of informants under 21 was previously barred, but "the director has okayed" it. The director of the FBI is J. Edgar Hoover.

As for payments, the newsletter discusses which FBI department the vouchers should be routed through, with separate routings for payments of less than \$300 a month and more than \$300 a month.

It added:

"Note: If an informant is to travel outside our division and we initially go in and request expense payment of less than \$300, it can be handled simply while the services payment can be requested later based on what he has produced."

The file on the suburban police chief includes the first page of a report on the letterhead of the Swarthmore Police Department on a student protest at Swarthmore College.

Caught by Surprise

Police Chief William G. Weidner declined to comment on the report, or any questions concerning information he might have given the FBI, "without checking my files."

"You've caught me pretty much by surprise," he said.

He said he could not check his files before next Tuesday.

The report involves a meeting with two Swarthmore College officials over a demonstration in early 1969 by the Swarthmore Afro Students Society, and the request of the officials that police not be used until requested.

If police were needed, the report said state police would be called in.

Best Procedure

According to the report, the Swarthmore College officials, Vice President Edward Cratsley and Superintendent William Stanton, "agreed this would be the best procedure."

"Their only request at this time," the report added, "was for the police not to be involved."

The situation ended without police though, the report adds, "surveillance of Swarthmore College campus was maintained continually."

Media FBI Agent Is Suspended For 30 Days

The Federal Bureau of Investigation agent in charge of the Media office that was burglarized on March 8 has been suspended without pay for 30 days and transferred to Atlanta, Ga.

The agent, Thomas F. Lewis, a 15-year veteran of the FBI office in Media and Chester, refused to comment on the actions. He is selling his house in Springfield and making plans to move with his wife and six children.

Lewis was a resident agent in Media when a group calling itself the "Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI" burglarized the office's files to show its opposition to FBI tactics.