

Pentagon Still Strong on Snooping

By Jack Anderson

Despite all those solemn assurances that the military brass would halt their domestic political surveillance, the Pentagon continues to receive daily reports from the FBI on political activity by militant students and blacks.

The confidential reports, entitled "Racial Developments and Disturbances" and "Student Unrest and Agitation," are sent on a special teletype linking the FBI with the Pentagon, White House, Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency.

At the Pentagon, the reports are distributed to a number of high-level officials. Even Adm. Thomas Moorer, the Joint Chiefs chairman, had been receiving the FBI reports until this month. Moorer and his predecessor, Gen. Earle Wheeler, had been on the distribution list since May 15, 1968.

But the uproar over military snooping into domestic political affairs became so loud that Moorer took himself off the list a few days ago. Copies are still widely circulated throughout the Pentagon, however, in case Moorer should want to bone up on student and black activities on the sly.

Moorer has also been manipulating military strings to circumvent Defense Secretary Mel Laird's efforts to tighten

civilian control over military snooping. On Dec. 23, Laird directed that the Defense Intelligence Agency should report directly to him rather than to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Behind Laird's back, Moorer sent word to the duty officers in the DIA's communications center to keep a vigilant watch to make sure no sensitive messages intended for the Joint Chiefs fell into Laird's hands. For military commanders had been using the DIA's communications channels to send messages that they didn't want their civilian bosses to read.

As an extra precaution, Moorer also ordered that these messages, marked for the "eyes only" of the Joint Chiefs, should be routed to the Pentagon through the National Military Command Center, a separate operational communications center that would remain under the Joint Chiefs' control.

Having taken all these steps without Laird's knowledge, Moorer then began lobbying with the Secretary to reverse his order and leave DIA under military control. Laird has now agreed, and the DIA is securely in Moorer's hands again.

Pantyhose Problems

Michigan's gentlemanly Sen. Phil Hart, who blushes easier than anyone else in the Sen-

ate, has been asked by scores of indignant ladies to do something about their underwear.

They have complained bitterly about the cost and quality of pantyhose. Joining in the protest, Congresswoman Leonor Sullivan (D.-Mo.), has charged that pantyhose are mis-advertised, mis-merchandised and misfits.

Hart ordered the staff of his Senate Antitrust Subcommittee to investigate. Here's what they have found:

The pantyhose revolution has produced the biggest clothing boom since the bloomer. Women have been buying the sheer, skin-hugging undergarments by the millions, paying up to \$4 a pair.

In the beginning, Japanese "fit all" pantyhose flooded the lingerie counters. They may have fit all Japanese, but they were often three inches short for long-stemmed American beauties. Then came the German imports, Too big in the calf.

American mills hastily turned out more than 200 sizes and shapes, which left the ladies at a loss to find the right fit. Now the industry has finally gotten together upon uniform sizes, more or less.

But still, the ladies are plagued with pantyhose problems. For instance, "no-run" hose may not run, as the advertisements promise, but they often develop holes. These are caused by hidden

flaws, not rough hands as the housewives may think.

Hart's Findings

Increasingly, marginal-quality hose is sold as top-quality hose, and "seconds" are passed off as "perfects." Hart's sleuths found that a big mill may turn out 120,000 pairs of hose at a time. A big chain, such as Sears, often may buy the best 100,000.

The remaining 20,000—some good, some bad—are sold to jobbers or brokers who then resell them to packagers. These pantyhose, though of dubious quality, will be sold under the same label at discount prices.

But the Senate's perfect gentleman can't bring himself to holding public hearings on pantyhose. Instead, he has asked the Federal Trade Commission to crack down on the unfair pantyhose practices.

We reached Sam Berry, president of the National Hosiery Manufacturers Association, which represents 90 per cent of the 200-plus American mills. The harassed Berry said the industry is doing its best to police itself.

But the last word comes from Congresswoman Sullivan who would like to know why men, who can make space suits for themselves to walk on the moon, can't produce a pair of pantyhose guaranteed to last out a day in the office.