

# Activists Watched By Police

## D.C. Shredded Personal Data In Many Files

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The D.C. police department intelligence division has kept files containing information on the personal lives of antiwar and local politicians, according to a well informed source.

Many of the files were shredded last year, said the source, who asked not to be named. He said the files were compiled by a special unit set up within the 33-officer intelligence division to monitor antiwar activities.

Information for the files was gathered by undercover intelligence division detectives and police informants, the source said, and included whatever details could be found on sexual habits, possible drug use and credit standing.

The source said that the confidential files were kept on such local figures as Del. Walter E. Fauntroy, City Councilman Julius Hobson Sr., and Councilman-at-large Marion Barry Jr. Fauntroy was elected to the Congress in 1971. Hobson was elected in the first city school board contest in 1968. Barry, former head of Pride Inc., a black self-help firm, was elected president of the city school board in 1971.

Their files and a substantial number of others were shredded last year by Det. Roger A. Johnson on the instructions of high officials, the source said.

Asked the purpose of the shredding, Johnson said this week, "If I said 'yes the files were shredded for a particular reason, I'd be in trouble that way (with his superiors). If I said 'no . . .'" He did not complete the sentence.

Johnson added, "Anything I could say to you would be an embarrassment to them (his superiors) one way or the other. I merely do as I am told."

Asked if he had objected to the shredding, Johnson said, "My recommendation there is moot."

Johnson referred further questions to his superiors.

Robert L. Zink, the director of the 33-man intelligence division, said he has not asked Johnson to shred any files since he took charge of the unit late last year.

Any shredding of files, he said, was done in a routine attempt to destroy obsolete information. He said he personally did such shredding, although Johnson might have shredded "Miscellaneous information."

"I'm saying I shred files practically every day," he said.

Zink's predecessor, Insp. Albert W. Ferguson, confirmed that the intelligence division kept files on antiwar activists and political groups.

He said the files contained information from surveillances as well as newspaper clippings, but he characterized

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the shredding of the files as "just housekeeping."

A second source familiar with the destruction of the material said its purpose was to purge the files of information that was illegally gathered.

This source, who was formerly a high-ranking official of the police department, said the intelligence division routinely exchanged information with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The source said this information primarily concerned CIA employees. He would not say what other data was exchanged.

The source, who was personally involved in the exchange program said, "I did what I thought was good for the District of Columbia and the federal government."

He said that in addition to the information exchanges, police and CIA personnel routinely met for up to two days on various matters, which he would not disclose.

The Washington Post reported in Tuesday's editions that CIA representatives met in strategy sessions with the D.C. police and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies when antiwar demonstrations were planned.

The CIA operatives, along with agents of other organizations, infiltrated the ranks of the protesters, The Post story said.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1973, former CIA Director Richard Helms said in response to a question that the CIA was not involved in any activity aimed at learning about the antiwar movement.

Helms added that becoming involved in such an activity would be a "clear violation of what our charter was."

The charter says the agency may not have any law enforcement powers or internal security functions. It also says the CIA director is responsible for protecting intelligence methods and sources from unauthorized disclosure.

He acknowledged that the CIA had trained local police departments in filing intelligence material and other matters.

The CIA subsequently refused a request from Rep. Edward I. Koch (D-N.Y.) to disclose the identities of most of

the approximately one local police department said received the CIA training.

Those departments that the CIA has named as having its assistance are the New York, Fairfax County, Montgomery County, Boston, and Washington police forces.

Asked yesterday what relationship the D.C. police department had with the CIA, former chief Jerry Wilson said the police had a liaison man with the CIA who insured that CIA employees did not become involved in homosexual activities.

In addition, he said, the CIA lent the police department some equipment, including electronic surveillance devices known as Kel Kits, and provided some training.

Asked if the police had exchanged information with the CIA, Wilson, who is conducting a police research project for American University and is writing a column for The Post, said, "I don't think so."

A source this week said the intelligence division's interest in antiwar groups and politicians began with the need to estimate the size of planned antiwar demonstrations and anticipate possible violence.

Washington was the scene during the late 1960s and early 1970s of a wave of demonstrations protesting the war in Vietnam.

The source said the effort to keep track of the demonstrations eventually "got out of hand. They all thought they were spies" he said.

"Anybody who said something against the war or Nixon, they wanted to know what were his methods, does he smoke dope, is he a homosexual," the source said.

Informants often were recruited by offering to "take care of" their charges when arrested for such offenses as possessing marijuana, the source said.

They were paid \$300 to \$400 a month, he said.

In addition to taking pictures of antiwar demonstrations and infiltrating political groups, the source said, the intelligence division's undercover officers "periodically followed people around."

He said police officials routinely said they were gathering data or looking up records for "the people across the river." This was generally understood to refer to the CIA, although the agency was never named, the source added.

He said the intelligence division periodically dealt with James W. McCord Jr., the convicted Watergate burglar who formerly was in the CIA's security division.