

**Secret Service at '71 Convention**

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## Socialists Targets of Spying

Associated Press

The Secret Service spied on more than 1200 persons attending the 1971 national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance, according to government documents disclosed yesterday.

Secret Service agents covertly photographed the speakers and tape-recorded the convention in Houston and sent the material to the agency's intelligence division in Washington the documents said.

The YSA is the youth affiliate of the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyite group that says it hopes to achieve a socialist revolution in the United States by working through the system and fielding candidates for public office including the presidency.

The party obtained the documents through a lawsuit against the FBI, the Secret Service and other agencies seeking more than \$27

million in damages for allegedly illegal harassment of political activities.

The documents were made public by the Political Rights Defense Fund which is financing the lawsuit. It has been disclosed that the FBI directed a wide range of disruptive activities against the two socialist groups. But this was the first disclosure of Secret Service surveillance of the YSA convention.

"The Secret Service was responsible for the recording of the speeches and it did so in furtherance of its duties under" the law, Assistant U.S. Attorney William S. Brandt said in a letter accompanying the documents. There was no explanation of what those duties were although other documents released by the party indicate the agency was concerned about security at the 1972 Republican National Convention.

Brandt said agents recorded most of the speeches from a projection booth in the Houston Music Hall where the convention was held. At other times, the recorder was hidden near the speaker's podium, he added.

Cathy Perkus an official of the defense fund, said: "It was the YSA's policy at this convention—and others—to ask that nobody tape record or take photographs without the permission of the YSA." She said she has learned that an employee of the city-owned hall permitted the agents to enter the locked projection room.