

Stolen FBI Files Mention Women's Peace League

BULLETIN
5/11/71

By HENRY R. DARLING
Of The Bulletin Staff

Another batch of stolen FBI files released to the press by RESIST, a Massachusetts antiwar group, indicates the FBI was worried about Communist infiltration of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

One of the duplicated documents in the mailing received by The Bulletin yesterday noted that Martin Luther King was scheduled to speak at a WILPF banquet in Philadelphia in October, 1, 1965.

A reporter called Mrs. Katherine L. Camp, of Gulph Mills, president of the U. S. Section, WILPF, and told her about the document.

'Proud to Have Him'

"We were proud to have Martin Luther King at our banquet," she said. "If this is what the FBI considers Communist infiltration, it raises basic questions about their entire operation.

"I think Dick Tracy should have stayed in the comics."

The stolen memorandum was dated Sept. 24, 1965, and was addressed to "Director, FBI." It was headed, "Communist Infiltration of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom."

In addition to the report on King, it pointed out that an issue of "Four Lights," a WILPF publication, contained the names and biographical sketches of the nominees for

the league's national board. Copies of the names and biographical data, it stated, were attached.

A distribution list indicated the memo was distributed to FBI branches in 37 cities around the country.

'Ludicrous But Frightening'

Mrs. Camp said she thinks it is "ludicrous but also frightening" that the FBI should be spying on members of an organization "dedicated to improving conditions of life for other citizens."

"WILPF," she said, "advocates peace, which is a threat to a war-making state, and freedom, which is a threat to the kind of closed society of spying and secrecy such as the FBI represents.

"We regard our civil liberties as very precious and this kind of snooping reveals how precarious the FBI is.

"We believe the FBI should be investigated and its leadership altered and its operations limited to the legal pursuit of actual criminals. It should be made accountable to the American people.

"Maybe we could use that new big expensive Federal Building built to house the FBI for some more constructive purpose such as a health center."

Other documents in the files sent to The Bulletin concern the Black Panther Party, the Black Student Union and individuals living in the Philadelphia area. The names were blocked out.