

F.B.I. BURGLARIES WON BONUS PLEA

Officials in New York Urged
Awards for 60's Break-ins

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
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WASHINGTON, June 27—The Federal Bureau of Investigation's office in New York City recommended commendations and cash incentive awards for a team of six bureau agents who carried out 15 burglaries of the Socialist Workers Party's offices in the city in 1964 and 1965, according to bureau documents made public today.

The documents praise the six agents for "constant alertness, swift reaction, sound judgment and great discretion" in obtaining information about the party and its youth affiliate, the Young Socialist Alliance, from "highly confidential sources of information."

"The agents involved were extremely careful to make these contacts in such a manner as not to embarrass the F.B.I.," reported the recommendation, dated June 28, 1965. "As a result of the outstanding accomplishments obtained

through the meritorious work performed by the agents involved, it is recommended that incentive awards be granted."

Compensated for 'Risks'

It was not known whether the awards were made, but bureau sources have said that such bonuses have been given to compensate for the risks of carrying out such burglaries, and that, when given, they usually amounted to several hundred dollars.

The names of the six agents were deleted from the recommendation before it was surrendered by the bureau to the Socialist Workers Party last week in connection with the party's three-year-old lawsuit against the Government.

A separate recommendation to the bureau's headquarters for letters of commendation for the six contained a brief reference to the risks posed by such break-ins and the methods used by the burglarizing agents.

"To successfully operate these highly confidential and anonymous sources," the report reads in the bureau's euphemistic jargon, "it is most important to maintain certain surveillances. It is also of irreplaceable necessity for all agents to be in continuous radio contact to maintain the highest degree of security so essential to an operation of this nature."

"The work on the part of the agents maintaining surveillance

becomes of strategic importance in the maintaining of security and requires utmost diligence on their parts," it said. "At particular stages of the

At particular stages of the contact the success of the contact temporarily rests on the shoulders of these agents and without a high degree of skill and knowledge of the operation, the contact could be compromised with resulting embarrassment."

Other bureau documents previously made public show that the Socialist Worker's offices were burglarized by the bureau more than 90 times from 1960 to 1966. Until recently, it was believed that the bureau suspended that practice in 1966.

Specially Trained Agents

Former senior bureau officials have said that specially trained squads of agents, carrying no bureau identification and prepared to "take a fall" if discovered by the police and arrested, were used to enter the premises of political groups to photograph or steal documents that could not be legally obtained with a search warrant.

According to the incentive recommendation, "extremely valuable information" was obtained by this method from the Socialist Alliance's offices, "including considerable information regarding its national

membership, financial structure and activities." Information obtained from the Socialist Workers offices concerned the party's "national plans" and "its methods and overall functioning," the report said.

The party, a Trotskyist organization, has about 1,700 members, according to its officers.

The issue of the bureau's use of extralegal tactics, including but not limited to burglaries, is the subject of a Justice Department investigation that is reportedly focusing on a number of burglaries, and possibly a kidnapping, committed by bureau agents within the last five years.

According to sources with information about the department's investigation, 30 agents have thus far been identified as having committed burglaries within the last few years. The department reportedly plans to offer the agents immunity from prosecution in return for their testimony about higher-ups in the bureau.

Andrew J. Decker, an assistant director in charge of the bureau's computer systems division, is understood to have come under the scrutiny of the department's Civil Rights Division in connection with the burglaries.

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