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TROTSKYITE PARTY ASSAILS POLICE

Socialist Workers Charge
Negligence in Bomb Cases
—Seek Opening of Files

By PETER KHSS

The Socialist Workers Party asserted yesterday that the New York Police Department had failed to press investigations of bombings of its offices over the years, and it called for opening police files to determine whether there were any links with admitted Federal Bureau of Investigation burglaries of party offices here.

A party suit for \$27 million damages against Federal officials had led on Sunday to making public 354 pages of F.B.I. files dating from January 1960 to July 1966 on 92 burglaries of Socialist Workers offices in five buildings here and two others in Los Angeles and Hamden, Conn., for asserted reasons of national security.

While the police and F.B.I. refused comment, a former Congressional investigator, Herbert Romerstein, now consultant to Friends of the F.B.I., said the Trotskyite party had itself stolen documents from its own dissidents. He quoted a complaint by a leader he said had been one of 100 members expelled in July, 1974.

Jean Savage, press secretary for the party's Presidential campaign charged that this was "fabrication" and called Mr. Romerstein a "professional witch hunter."

Mr. Romerstein has submitted some 400 pages of party documents, including the complaint by William Massey, party member, to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee—"none of them burglarized" and "all directly from individuals in the party" who said, Mr. Romerstein disagreed with its aims.

Incidents Listed

The party complained of unsuccessful police action in the following instances:

¶ Dec. 3, 1973—Bombing of the Political Rights Defense Fund, 156 Fifth Avenue, when two persons were injured and a concrete wall was blown out. The fund has been financing a Federal Court suit for damage that brought out admissions of 92 burglaries of party offices, made public Sunday.

¶ April 24, 1969—Hurling of a hand grenade at the campaign headquarters of Paul Boutelle, then candidate for Mayor, at 873 Broadway, when 15 workers inside were visible from the street. The missile bounced off a window and reportedly demolished a car.

¶ Sept. 29, 1966—Firebombing of the campaign headquarters at 873 Brod Broadway when Judy White was running for Governor and Catarino (then known as Richard) Garza for Lieutenant Governor, with four bombs causing extensive damage.

Mr. Garza asserted yesterday that the police "have never talked to me" or "kept one single appointment" about the March 16 firing of a bullet at his apartment window at 711 East 11th Street in what he called an "assassination attempt."

F.B.I. burglaries may never have led to earlier party complaints to the police, since the Federal files indicated material was generally photographed rather than taken away. Even on reported burglaries in the city in general, the official Police Department reports for last year indicated only 11.3 percent as "cleared" by arrests, not necessarily convictions.

Police surveillance of such groups as the Socialist Workers Party here has been understood to have involved the use of informants, rather than the burglaries now admitted by the F.B.I.

Court Suit Cited

A five-year-old Federal Court suit against the police Special Services Division complaining of "overbroad and unconstitutional" use of undercover agents and surveillance is still in the discovery stages.

Mr. Romerstein, in Senate testimony published Feb. 29, cited an International Internal Discussion Bulletin dated January 1975 as including a letter from William Massey, of the Internationalist Tendency faction, to the Fourth International of World Trotskyist parties.

In this, Mr. Massey condemned the United States Government's "use of spies" as invading the American party's "democratic rights" but said "the same methods" were used by the party majority "in their obtaining of the internal documents [and private letters] of the I.T."

Mr. Romerstein, in his testimony, said "the Socialist Workers Party, while complaining about government surveillance, itself had "a consistent policy of penetration of other organizations" and gathering internal documents and disrupting groups.

He said one internal 1974 report cited "less than 11,000" members of Fourth International parties worldwide, including fewer than 1,000 in the United States. A November 1971 party report here, he said, gave party membership as 800, including 200 full-time paid functionaries.

Yesterday, Mr. Romerstein estimated that the party had grown to about 1,000, with 1,400 members in the affiliated Young Socialist Alliance, for an over-all total of 2,000 individuals after eliminating dual members.