

# Lawless FBI Acts Alleged

New York Times News Service

Agents of the FBI committed widespread acts of unauthorized lawlessness, including the burning of automobiles, assaults and illegal wiretapping, while conducting internal security investigations in the last five years, law enforcement sources said yesterday.

These sources, who are deeply familiar with the FBI's domestic security operations, said they believed the Justice Department's present investigation of alleged burglaries by agents would uncover other wrongdoing, because techniques of harassment and illegal investigation methods were used by the same agents who were committing the burglaries.

These sources said that agents risked doing such things as roughing up antiwar radicals or placing illegal wiretaps — called "suicide" or "wildcat" taps by agents — because they were under "tremendous pressure" to halt bombings and catch fugitives in the early 1970s.

**MILITANT ANTIWAR** activists at Queens College in New York City were one target of illegal and unauthorized electronic surveillance, these sources said.

Clarence M. Kelley, director of the FBI, said in a statement to The New York Times yesterday that he had "no information indicating that these allegations are true."

"However," he continued, "as in all allegations by bureau employes, this will be looked into and if evidence is found to substantiate the allegations, actions will be taken against the employes involved."

"It is hoped that anyone having such information will come forth, because without their assistance the investigation is much more difficult," Kelley said.

**AGENTS PLACED** illegal "wildcat" telephone taps and electronic bugs, the sources said, after bureau orders specifically forbade such activities, because these were often the best methods of getting intelligence on militant leftists.

Agents would disguise the source of the information in their reports to make it appear that it came from live informants, the sources said. One source said, however, that he believed that FBI supervisory personnel were "aware" that information was coming from taps but did nothing about it.

The burning of cars and assaults on radical leftists were efforts to disrupt antiwar activity, these sources said. The Times has received a report of two car burnings in the New York area, but other sources could not confirm these particular acts. One source said, however, that the technique of burning or vandalizing a car was "known to a lot of people."

The cars were set afire with "Molotov cocktails" made from glass bottles filled with gasoline. This was done in such a manner as to appear to have been an attack by another extremist group. Cars were also disabled to strand suspects during a surveillance, these sources said.