

FBI Will Still Use Informants, Chief Says But Kelley Backs Proposed Rules to Limit Bureau's Activities

Special to The Times

SAN DIEGO—FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley told a news conference here Tuesday the bureau would continue to use informants in its investigations of domestic subversive groups.

"I can't say that under no circumstances will they (informants) avoid acting as provocateurs," he said. "But we tell them not to do anything that will provoke violence. As soon as any condition of that nature comes out, we put the reins on them."

The FBI has been criticized for using informants to provoke violence between extremist groups—in Southern California, for example, clashes in San Diego and at UCLA in 1969 between members of the Black Panther Party and the US group in which four Black Panthers were killed.

When questioned about the FBI's motives in performing the so-called "dirty tricks" against the two groups, Kelley said the bureau tried "to create suspicion and bitterness between the two."

He said it was the FBI's intention to bring out divisiveness so the two organizations would not create a strong union that in itself would create violence and endanger the government.

"We did not intend to generate any activities that would lead to the violence that did occur," Kelley said.

In retrospect, he said, the FBI may have been unjustified in some of its actions. But, he said, "This is a difficult business to be in without making a wrong move sometime or making a mistake as to the ultimate impact of what the organization does in its attempts to guard against subversive activities threatening the violent overthrow of the government."

Kelley endorsed proposed new Justice Department guidelines aimed at restricting the bureau's activities. He played down the importance of the deletion of a section permitting "preventative action" against subversives.

"The fact that preventative action was taken out is not traumatic to us," he said. "If we are faced with a problem in the future, we can still go to

the attorney general to determine what needs to be done."

In supporting the guidelines, Kelley said, "An organization that has been under fire like ours should have a set of rules to serve as guideposts. The day of one-man rule is over."

Kelley was in San Diego Tuesday for a meeting with police chiefs from 40 major U.S. cities.

3/10/76



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