

# FBI Probe of Actress Jean Seberg Found More Extensive Than Reported

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The FBI conducted a much more pervasive investigation of the late actress Jan Seberg than just attempting to plant rumors that a member of the Black Panther Party had made her pregnant, her FBI file reveals.

The investigation, detailed in the file that the Los Angeles Times obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, included monitoring her bank dealings, keeping close tabs on travel and disseminating logs of her conversations with Black Panther headquarters, which had been wiretapped.

Conducted from 1969 through 1972, the "discreet investigation," as an FBI memo describes it, established that Seberg gave thousands of dollars to the Panthers, a prime target on the Bureau's list of extremist organizations.

The file disclosed that the then-FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, advised John D. Ehrlichman, then-President Nixon's domestic affairs chief, of findings on Seberg. Then-attorney general John J. Mitchell and his deputy, Richard G. Kleindienst also were given FBI reports on the actress, according to the file.

There was no indication, however, that the former officials had been told of the FBI's attempt to smear Seberg by linking her romantically Hahim Abdullah Jamal, identified as with a Black Panther official and with a black nationalist.

The FBI released documents limited to the 1970 smear attempt last September, after Seberg had committed suicide in Paris. In doing so, FBI Director William H. Webster said such FBI tactics were a thing of the past.

"We are out of that business forever," he said.

The more voluminous investigative file traces the probe to June 5, 1969, when the Los Angeles FBI field office was instructed to initiate an "active discreet investigation" to determine the extent of Seberg's association with black nationalist groups.

On April 29, 1970, G. C. Moore, a former FBI official who headed the headquarters section responsible for following extremist groups, compiled a list of Black Panther Party contributors, including entertainment figures, who had given a total of \$92,000. Seberg's contribution was put at \$10,500.

On Feb. 23, 1970, an informant—presumably in the Black Panthers and described only as the FBI's "Source Three"—reported that a Panther member had told Seberg that the Los Angeles chapter "was broke and needed money."

According to the source, Seberg then gave \$2,500.

Earlier, the FBI reported, Seberg paid the overdue union dues of Jamal and helped him to open an account at the City National Bank in Los Angeles by giving him a personal check for \$5,000.

The file showed that the FBI funneled information on Seberg to the Central Intelligence Agency, FBI "legal attaches" at U.S. embassies in Paris and Rome, military intelligence units and the Secret Service.

A photograph of Seberg was given the Secret Service under the FBI's agreement to keep the agency better informed about potential presidential security threats in the wake of the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

An accompanying form letter from Hoover said the FBI was providing the photograph either because Seberg's background "is potentially dangerous," or because she was a member of a "group or organization inimical to U.S."

In 1969, the FBI concluded that listing Seberg as one of those that the FBI would round up in case of a presidency was not warranted. On Dec. 29, 1970, however, the FBI added her

name to the list. Two years later, she was considered less of a threat and was downgraded to the so-called "administrative index."

The file disclosed that, in wiretapped telephone conversations with Black Panther offices, Seberg used the aliases of Aretha or Arisa.

Seberg's FBI file was replete with judgments by bureau officials on the actress' morality, with few facts to support the assessments.

For example, in communications from Moore to C. D. Brennan, an assistant FBI director, Seberg was repeatedly characterized as "the alleged promiscuous and sex-perverted white actress."

The log of a 1970 wiretapped telephone conversation between an unidentified Black Panther member, who was the target of the wiretap, and Seberg, then in Switzerland, indicated she was aware that authorities were monitoring her activities.

Instructing her caller to send something to her in Switzerland, Seberg said: "... Everybody knows I'm here anyway so it doesn't matter, you know, I've got little friends who follow..."