

'19 of 90 'Targets' Told of FBI Spying

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By Morton Mintz
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Attorney General Edward H. Levi says the Justice Department has notified 19 persons that they were targets of Cointelpro, a counterintelligence program operated by the FBI from 1956 to 1971 in which thousands of domestic dissidents and their organizations were harassed, burglarized or otherwise disrupted.

In a search generated by Rep. Bella S. Abzug (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, the department found it "inappropriate" to notify 71 Cointelpro targets, Levi said in a letter released by Abzug yesterday.

Abzug said that notification of "only 19 of the thousands of people who were subjected to harassment by the FBI" was "thoroughly inadequate." She said she was "shocked" that notification had been found inappropriate in 71 cases.

She is the sponsor of a bill to require notification of every person who was the subject of a file set up under Cointelpro.

The department agreed last April to notify some Cointelpro victims. In his letter, dated last Tuesday, Levi said that the Cointelpro notifications went to four persons in the "New Left," 11 designated "black extremist," three labeled "white hate" and one la-

beled "Communist Party USA." Seven more persons will be notified when their addresses become known, Levi said.

A department review committee determined that notification was inappropriate in 45 cases because, Levi said, "it was decided no harm was done." Abzug, in a statement, asked, "Who is the Attorney General to determine whether harm was done?"

Other explanations offered by Levi for why targets were not notified were that "the 'target' is a group," "persons were already aware of the action," the bureau determined its action was proper, notification "would necessarily reveal the identities of bureau informants," documents "evidencing the action are and should remain classified," the committee was unable to determine whether an action was implemented or found that "no action" was implemented.