

# FBI Forgery Disclosed by Trotskyites

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A new set of FBI memoranda released today by the Socialist Workers Party shows that the FBI engaged in forgery among other tactics in attempting to disrupt the party.

The party - a Trotskyite group - and its youth arm, the Young Socialist Alliance, are suing the government in federal court in New York for \$27 million in damages. The new documents bring to about 4,000 the number of pages of FBI documents the party now has, all of which have been obtained through pre-trial discovery motions.

The latest internal FBI memoranda obtained by the party total about 185 pages, all concerning the FBI's counter intelligence program (COINTELPRO), which the FBI claims was discontinued in 1971 after revelations about its existence and operation began appearing in the media.

Previous disclosures about COINTELPRO have indicated how FBI agents schemed to disrupt and discredit the two organizations, as well as the Ku Klux Klan, the Communist Party, the Black Panthers, Students for a Democratic Society, the Progressive Labor Party, the Weathermen, the Congress of Racial Equality, the Southern Christian Leadership Con-

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ference, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, the Revolutionary Action Movement, the Nation of Islam, the Minutemen, the American Nazi Party and the National States Rights Party.

Although the FBI says the COINTELPRO activities ceased in 1971, the Socialist Workers Party says that they are continuing, and that their members have remained under constant FBI harassment.

To buttress their claim, the party released 13 memoranda detailing FBI agents' interviewing of SWP members in 1972 and 1973.

SWP member Cathy Perkus pointed out in an interview that a report on COINTELPRO in 1974 by then Assistant Attorney General

## Correction

Because of typographical errors, a quote in yesterday's story about the National Academy of Sciences report on worldwide effects of nuclear war was inaccurate. The quote, taken from the report, should have read: "The economic, social and political consequences of the resultant worldwide terror are entirely unpredictable."

In addition, the expression "ecological backlash" should have been attributed to Arms Control and Disarmament Agency director Fred C. Ikle.

Henry Petersen listed the interviewing and contacting of an organization's members as a routine form of COINTELPRO harassment and intimidation.

The FBI has said such continued interviews are purely investigative.

"They may call them investigative," Perkus said, "but to our mind they're identical to what the government itself describes as disruptive."

The memoranda detailing the FBI agents' interviews of the members show them in several cases obtaining interviews under the pretext of obtaining information for jury duty calls. In one case, the agent wrote that "the pretext utilized was that of a NY lottery inquiry."

In the forgery instance, the documents show that, in 1961, the FBI faked a letter purporting to be from the campaign manager of a Communist Party candidate for San Francisco supervisor and challenging the legality of a SWP member's candidacy for the post.

When the San Francisco agent in charge asked headquarters in Washington for permission to send the letter to increase animosity between the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers, he asked that he be allowed to send the letter under the auspices of the Communist candidate's "Election Committee."

Permission was granted, but the agent instead forged the signature of the Communist's campaign manager, and so informed Washington.

Washington immediately ordered the operation stopped and demanded to know why the agent exceeded his authority and signed the letter with the name of an individual instead of the "broad manner."

In this case, as in others outlined in the memos, FBI headquarters made it clear the letters should not be traceable to the FBI.

In the instance of an FBI-phantom letter in Detroit, in which the letter was to appear as if it was coming from a student at Wayne State University, headquarters ordered the Detroit agent:

"The original letters should be prepared on a manual typewriter using commercially purchased

stationery. If possible, you should consider the use of stationery containing the title or seal of the Wayne State University if this is available to the students through the university store or elsewhere...

In one of the cases described in the memoranda made public today, the FBI in 1966 attempted to get the Student Senate to forbid the Young Socialist Alliance from holding meetings on the campus of American University here.

The Washington field office agent was told to "insure... the bureau's interest in this matter may not be revealed under any circumstances."

The agent eventually reported that he had succeeded in keeping the Alliance off the campus for that year, but could not control what would happen the following year.