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FBI Received Candidate's Stolen Data

By Margaret Gentry

Associated Press

The FBI received papers taken from the briefcase of the Socialist Workers Party's 1968 presidential candidate, an FBI memo says.

The document was part of the FBI files turned over to the candidate, Fred Halstead of Los Angeles, in compliance with his request under the Freedom of Information Act. The document was made available to The Associated Press.

The material dealing with Halstead's missing briefcase may become an important facet of the party's \$27 million damage suit against the FBI and other government agencies. The party is seeking damages for allegedly unconstitutional harassment of legal political activities.

Cathy Perkus, an official of the Political Rights Defense Fund which is financing the party lawsuit, said the Halstead document raises questions about whether an FBI agent or informer stole the briefcase.

She said, after discussing the matter with Halstead, that his recollection of the incident differs considerably from the FBI version.

Halstead could not be reached for comment.

The copy of the memo furnished to Halstead deletes details of how the FBI obtained the papers.

In the memo Dec. 3, 1968, the agent in charge of the Sacramento office says he is sending "two envelopes containing personal papers of Halstead and literature relating to the Socialist Workers Party" to FBI headquarters.