

## Ex-F.B.I. Agent Sues 3 Officials On Alleged Cover-Up of Report

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INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 17 — A former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, charging that his report on "probable corruption or ineffectiveness" within the Indianapolis bureau was censored, has sued three of his superiors for allegedly conspiring to cover up portions of his official report.

Rex A. Rissen, who resigned from the Boston field office Jan. 26, this week became the second former Indianapolis-based agent to bring Federal court action here since an inquiry began last year on the conduct of the bureau's local field office.

Lee Colwell, an assistant F.B.I. director in charge of the planning and inspection division at the bureau's Washington headquarters, was named a defendant in the latest suit, along with Harlan C. Phillips, the agent in charge of the Indianapolis office, and Daniel E. Kelly, a supervisor in that office when Mr. Rissen served there. Mr. Rissen was an agent there from 1973, the year he joined the F.B.I., until last July 17, when he was transferred to Boston.

Mr. Rissen alleges that Mr. Colwell acted through an unidentified third party in June 1978 to encourage Mr. Rissen to corroborate the accusations of another agent about alleged misconduct in the local office.

According to the allegations in the suit, Mr. Colwell, instead of protecting Mr. Rissen's identity as promised, deleted a key portion of Mr. Rissen's report on the matter and then disclosed Mr. Rissen's identity to the agent's local superiors.

As a result, Mr. Rissen contends, he suffered reprisals, including personal surveillance, false and malicious additions to his job performance record and other intimidation that finally made continued F.B.I. service "intolerable." His suit seeks \$167,453 in damages.

Mr. Phillips, while he would not comment directly on the lawsuit, said, "It's absurd the price a public official pays has to include frivolous lawsuits. Anyone can file a lawsuit. It's the disposition that counts."

After the suit filing Thursday, the Indianapolis office of Representative Andrew Jacobs Jr., Democrat of Indiana, issued a statement suggesting "the completeness" of prior investigations had been "called into question."

"It is now apparent that further investigation is necessary," it said, "and Congressman Jacobs is making that request to the proper authorities."

Representative Jacobs asked Attorney

General Griffin B. Bell last June to review complaints that the F.B.I. was trying to dismiss a former agent, Charles E. Egger, who was characterized by his attorney as the target then of an "escalating series of bureau actions" as "part of a plan to discourage any investigation that might prove embarrassing to the F.B.I."

Mr. Egger, who was later dismissed when he refused a transfer to Chicago, brought two lawsuits in Federal court here Aug. 18, one against Mr. Phillips and the other against William H. Webster, the F.B.I. Director. He contended in both that his transfer and dismissal were "retaliation" for questioning some activities of the local office's organized crime squad, of which he was a former member. Neither case has come to trial.