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# FBI Spying Cited By Lawyers Unit

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The National Lawyers Guild says it has obtained documents showing the FBI spied on guild activities for years after the guild won removal from the attorney general's list of subversive organizations in 1959.

One document showed the FBI completed a preliminary investigation in 1975 to determine whether the guild was getting involved in "revolutionary activity," guild President Henry diSuvero said Friday.

"The latest date is 1975, but there is no reason to believe that the bureau has ceased to use the tactic of attempting to place informers in the guild" diSuvero said. "We fully expect that it continued."

DiSuvero said the guild obtained the documents through court orders obtained by legal "discovery actions" connected with a \$10 million damage suit the guild filed nearly a year ago against the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency and others.

The suit charged the FBI spied on it through informers and used the harassment tactics of the FBI's Cointelpro program, which the late Director J. Edgar Hoover used until 1971.

The documents showed the FBI's spying and harassment of the guild began as early as 1941, four years after the guild was founded. The organization often defended people accused of being communists. The 1975 memo showed the FBI completed a preliminary investigation of the guild to determine if it "is becoming involved in revolutionary activities warranting further investigation. . ."

No results were given.

An example of FBI harassment, diSuvero said, turned up in a 1960 memo recounting how agents persuaded former Chief Judge Sylvester J. Ryan to deny the guild use of the federal courthouse in New York City for seminars.

The memo said that allowing the guild to use a federal courthouse "would undoubtedly give prestige and lend an aura of respectability to this organization that has since its inception given assistance to the communist cause."

When an FBI agent asked Ryan to rescind a permit already given the guild, according to the memo, the judge replied, "No problem whatsoever," and ordered the permit canceled.

The memo said the seminar was hastily moved to another location where it attracted only half the expected number of participants.