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FBI Director Clarence Kelley goes from a wave to an apology at the 22nd annual observance of former President Harry Truman's birthday at Kansas City, Mo., yesterday — an apology for the FBI's sins of recent years. The bust of the former chief executive (right) was unveiled at the opening of the Kansas City meeting.

'Dogmas' Colored Years Of FBI Spying, Report Says

By Jerry Oppenheimer

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Forty years of FBI domestic intelligence operations were clouded by ideological assumptions that "became unquestioned dogmas as the years went by" and dominated the operations during the turbulent Vietnam war era, the Senate Intelligence committee reported yesterday.

The committee's 183-page report, the latest in a series released in the past two weeks, traced the FBI's domestic spying activities to the establishment of the bureau's intelligence structure under J. Edgar Hoover in 1938. The report shows how Hoover's strong anti-Communist beliefs were reflected in the way the structure was used in later years.

IN APRIL of 1970, for example, when the bureau

was investigating the Weatherman faction of the Students for a Democratic Society, whose members were believed to live in communes, an FBI memorandum to field offices described the bureau's idea of what communes were like:

"For the purpose of bureau investigations, a commune is defined as a group of individuals residing in one location who practice communal living, i.e., they share income and adhere to the philosophy of a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist-oriented violent revolution."

The memorandum instructed agents, when information was received that indicated the existence of a commune, to "determine the identity of all members" and to investigate them as suspected extremists.

Following a meeting with President Lyndon Johnson in 1965, Hoover issued instructions to his subordinates in which he asked for all information about SDS "which I can transmit to the president."

In the memo, Hoover declared, "while I realize we may not be able to technically state that it (SDS) is an actually Communist organization, certainly we do know there are Communists in it."

The Johnson administration not only received intelligence from the FBI on anti-Vietnam war demonstrations, but also asked the bureau to conduct "name checks" of its files of persons who sent telegrams to the White House critical of U.S. policy in Southeast Asia, the report said.

AN FBI memorandum prepared for the committee

also showed that an assistant to Johnson requested that the FBI monitor the televised hearings of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Vietnam policy and prepare a memorandum comparing the statements of Sens. William Fulbright and Wayne Morse with "the Communist party line."

A similar request, the FBI told the committee, was channeled through Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, who supplied a presidential aide with a summary of information concerning the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy.

The same aide summarized for Johnson an FBI memorandum on "peace" demonstrations.

The summary pinpointed demonstrations which gave evidence that "the Communist party and other organizations are continuing their efforts to force the United States to change its present policy toward Vietnam."

The committee said that such findings, both by the FBI and Johnson aides, were an "exaggeration."

THE COMMITTEE report said that even where there was no specific prior indication of Communist involvement the FBI moved to investigate all emerging "New Left" groups.

Intelligence developed under the bureau's VIDEM program on Vietnam demonstrations was teletyped to headquarters "for immediate dissemination to the White House and other interested government agencies, followed by routine dissemination to the intelligence community."

The report said that an FBI summary of the New Left in 1969 made no mention of, or showed concern for, "direct influence or control of the New Left by agents of hostile foreign powers." Instead, the stress was almost entirely upon ideological "links and similarities, and the threat of dangerous ideas."

The committee concluded that the FBI's experience in the conduct of domestic intelligence investigations over the past 40 years "argues strongly for discarding outdated ideas and striking a new balance between security and liberty. The dangers of domestic intelligence are real, not imaginary."