

Albany State Police Used Rightist Data on Liberals

By SELWYN RAAB

Legislative investigators have uncovered evidence that the state police used a secret "right-wing intelligence newsletter" to help compile dossiers on supposedly liberal and leftist persons.

The newsletter, Information Digest, supplied the police with the names of thousands of politicians, political activists, lawyers, writers and show business personalities for inclusion in noncriminal intelligence files, according to findings of the Office of Legislative Oversight and Analysis.

Among those whose names were passed along to the state

police headquarters in Albany because of their political activities are former Mayor John V. Lindsay, Representatives Herman Badillo, Shirley Chisholm, Charles B. Rangel and Benjamin S. Rosenthal, Borough President Robert Abrams of the Bronx, Bishop Paul Moore Jr. of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and Dustin Hoffman, the actor.

A confidential preliminary report by the Oversight Office said Mayor Lindsay had become an entry in the intelligence records because of his opposition to the deportation of John Lennon, one of the origin-

Continued on Page 23, Column 1

al Beatlies.

Bishop Moore, the Representatives, and Mr. Abrams were included because of their stands against the Vietnam War, the report said, and Mr. Hoffman was cited as an entertainer "sympathetic" to radical causes.

"Information Digest was casually used to create dossiers on a wide spectrum of Americans whose only crime was to dissent on what the Digest authors considered the left of the political spectrum," the report declared.

It added that the state police might have provided "raw, unvaluated... derogatory information" from these files to other law-enforcement agencies and individuals.

The report on Information Digest follows disclosures last year by the state legislative unit that the state police had amassed political information on as many as a million people. None of these files apparently related to criminal matters.

Based on the latest disclosures, Assemblyman Mark A. Siegel, a Manhattan Democrat, said that he expected that an Assembly subcommittee would soon begin hearings into gathering of political intelligence by the state police.

"They got this information and put it into files," he said. "What they did with it is what we don't know."

William Connelie, the superintendent of the state police, directed last November that the

political files be discontinued and removed. Mr. Connelie, who became superintendent last July, said he had not seen a copy of the report in on Intelligence Digest, but he confirmed that it had been used by his department.

"Information from it has been used but it does not have the imprimatur of the gospel truth," he said in a telephone interview from Albany.

The report on Information Digest was made by William F. Haddad, the head of the Oversight Office, and Thomas M. Burton, a staff investigator. A copy was obtained by The New York Times.

In their report to Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut and Assemblyman Siegel of the Governmental Operations Committee, the two staff members described Information Digest as "a sophisticated, right-wing intelligence newsletter which for the last seven years has supplied police departments with derogatory information on liberals and the left."

According to the report, the newsletter was prepared by S. Louise Rees, who is on the Congressional staff of Representative Larry P. McDonald, Democrat of Georgia, and Mrs. Rees's husband, John. Neither of the Reeses nor Representative McDonald could be reached for comment.

The newsletter was begun in 1969 and secretly distributed to police departments and Federal agencies until last October as a "clearinghouse" for information on political dissent, the report said.

"Information Digest appears to have formed an underground link between willing and gullible police departments throughout the nation, including the New York State Police," the report asserted. It said it was certain how Information Digest was financed or if it had ceased operations.

In their report to the Assemblymen, Mr. Haddad and Mr. Burton said that the Legislature should determine if the state police had provided Information Digest with intelligence information about New York State residents.

"It should be noted that the extraordinary cost of maintain-

ing a million-card file of innocent civilians could be put to use to curtail real criminal activities," the report added.

Mr. Haddad, who is recuperating from knee surgery, could not be reached for additional comment.

A final report on the state police involvement with Information Digest is expected to be made public shortly by the Oversight Office.

Among those cited by the newsletter and who are known to have had some kind of dossiers made because of their positions against the war in Vietnam are the following:

Kermit Bloomgarden, producer; Jules Feiffer, playwright and cartoonist; Jack Gilford, actor; Councilwoman Carol Greitzer; Assemblyman Franz S. Leichter; Leon Davis, president of the Hospital and Workers Union; David Livingston, president of District 65, National Council of Distributive Workers of America; Ashley Montagu, anthropologist; Linus Pauling, scientist; Tony Randall, actor; Gloria Steinem, women's rights writer; Melvin Wulf, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union; Betty Friedan, women's rights leader; Murray Kempton, the writer; Shirley MacLaine, the entertainer; and Norman Mailer, the writer.