

FBI Network Has 1,500 Informants

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The FBI controls a vast network of paid informants and confidential sources such as bankers, telephone company employes and even landlords who supply information to the bureau in domestic intelligence investigations.

The Senate Intelligence Committee's report issued yesterday on the FBI's use of the informants said that the bureau was using more than 1,500 domestic intelligence informants as of June 30, 1975, and that the budget for fiscal 1976 for the program was more than \$7.4 million.

The amount of money spent for informants who spy on groups and individuals, the committee said, was more than twice the amount allocated for the organized crime informant program.

IN ANOTHER area, the committee reported, some 1,500 Army intelligence

agents were engaged in monitoring and penetrating civilian activities in this country in 1968.

The committee pointed out that, while a Defense Department directive now generally limits the military's collection of data about groups and individuals, the directive "permits" the military "to secretly penetrate" civilian groups where approved by the Defense Department.

Besides informants used by the FBI for domestic intelligence spying, the report said, the bureau as of a year ago had more than 1,200 confidential sources approved for domestic intelligence purposes. These sources — such as bankers, telephone company employes and landlords — provide the FBI with information available to them because of their positions.

The committee also reported that, in the course of domestic intelligence investigations, the FBI regularly uses students, teachers and school officials at colleges and universities as informants and confidential sources.

UNDER PRESENT FBI policy, the report said, there are two measures that apply solely to the use of campus informants. Students under 18 years of age may not be used as informants in other than "highly unusual circumstances" and justification for their use must be submitted to FBI headquarters.

At the same time, student informants and confidential sources are requested to sign a statement that they

are "voluntarily" submitting information because of their "concern over individuals and groups that may be inimical to interests of the U.S. government."

The committee found in its investigation that informants had gone beyond the scope of their assignments. Not only did they report on planned acts of violence and criminal activity, but they also reported on activity and personal matters regardless of its relation to illegal acts.

And, in some cases, they took part in acts of violence or even planned and provoked activities that violated the law.

INFORMANTS were placed by the FBI into the women's liberation movement, a discussion group on the merits of an antiballis-

tic missile system, with Vietnam veteran groups, "free universities," the Socialist Workers party, the Ku Klux Klan and black power organizations.

The report said that the meeting on the antiballistic missile system, held here in 1969, was targeted for informant coverage because a Communist newspaper had commented on the formation of the group.

Between 1967 and 1973, the committee said, the FBI had a "Ghetto Informant Program," which was used to gather information about potential violence and civil unrest in black urban areas. At the height of the program in 1972, there were more than 700,400 informants working for the FBI in black neighborhoods around the country.