

Post 8/29/76  
**FBI Legacy**

**D**R. MORRIS Starsky, who was a philosophy teacher at Arizona State University, was apparently viewed by the FBI during part of the Vietnam War era as a powerful influence over New Left activities in Arizona.

Documents released by the FBI in February 1975 revealed that in the war period the Bureau considered Starsky a prime candidate for COINTELPRO (counterintelligence program) action and that the Bureau's Phoenix field office — with approval from headquarters — sent an anonymous letter to the school's faculty committee suggesting his dismissal. The letter questioned whether students should "enjoy the guidance of such an instructor" and implied that he should be "properly punished" for alleged radical behavior.

The letter itself apparently had little effect, but the fact is that in June 1970 the state board of regents, reportedly under pressure from state legislators, fired Starsky. In the years that have followed, the former assistant professor has been fighting in court to get his job back.

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## after/words

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It is a dragged-out affair, the latest question being whether Starsky's acceptance of a sabbatical leave when he was dismissed constituted a settlement. A district court judge has scheduled the trial for April 1977. "Don't complain to me, complain to Congress; there are not enough federal judges," Starsky quotes the judge as having told him.

In the meantime, Starsky has been unable to find a permanent teaching job. At 42, he is selling shoes in Cleveland and trying to "keep myself going intellectually" by reading, writing and getting involved politically. He says he is told he is "over-qualified" for other jobs.