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ONE MAN'S FBI FILE

The new headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington was completed just in time. The bureau must have been in desperate need of warehouse space.

According to the report of the Senate Intelligence Committee, the FBI has developed intelligence files on more than 500,000 American citizens over the past four decades. That's a lot of "subversives."

By way of creating a unique monument to this era in American history, Princeton University politics professor H. H. Wilson is collecting copies of FBI dossiers, beginning with his own. The collection will eventually be placed in the university's Firestone Library.

Thanks to the Freedom of Information Act, Wilson was able to wrest part of his file from the tender grip of the FBI. What he received were 60 heavily censored pages representing surveillance of him since 1952. An example of the usefulness of the information was the fact that his name was rendered three different ways throughout.

"Anyone in this country who was ever active in the peace movement, the civil rights movement or anything like that probably has an FBI file on him," says Wilson. "I would like to see all of these different files drawn together, because it would be highly educational for people to be able to go through these files and see for themselves just how much of their tax money was wasted..."

Wilson's chief sins, apparently, were participation in antiwar causes and daring to criticize late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.