Sport 10/23/25

FBI maintains suspect list

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI maintains a secret list of more than 1,200 Americans targeted for possible investigation as potential security risks in times of national emergency, according to

documents disclosed Wednesday.

Thedocuments were released by Rep.
Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis. chairman of a House Civil Liberties subcommittee, who said the FBI practice "demands thorough congressional scrutiny and public discussion."

The list is the latest in a series of indexes dating back to before U.S. entry into World War II and originally intended to identify persons to be arrested if they were considered a national security threat in wartime.

Authority for detention of Americans considered possible security threats expired in 1971. An FBI spokesman said in August that the list of Americans identified for possible detention had once grown to 15,000 names.

The FBI said the present list, which contained 1,294 names as of Aug. 15, is "an administrative aid ... (that) enables the FBI to remain alert to individuals who have exhibited a propensity to conduct acts inimical to the national security and affords the FBI a record of individuals who would merit close investigative attention pending legal steps by the President to take further action."

A memorandum from FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley said the compilation "serves as an extremely valuable list of individuals who poise a threat to the president of the United States, thereby enabling the FBI to provide current data to the U.S. Secret Service."

"Individuals who are included are those who have exhibited a willingness or capability of engaging in treason, rebellion, sedition, sabotage, espionage, assassination of government officials, terrorism, guerrilla warfare, or other acts which would result in interference with or a threat to the survival and effective

operation of national, state or local government," the memorandum said.

"During 1972 the operation of this index was evaluated and revised to include only those individuals who pose a realistic, direct and current danger to the national security," the memorandum added.

Names on the list were not disclosed. The FBI also said it would be impossible to reconstruct past lists as Kastenmeier had asked.

In releasing the Kelley memorandum and a file of related documents, Kastenmeier said in a statement that "although the executive branch does not now assert the authority to suspend the Bill of Rights and incarcerate Americans at its discretion, the fact that it continues to actively maintain a list which had its genesis in a plan to systematically imprison thousands of political dissenters in the early days of the 'cold war' is a fact which demands thorough congressional scrutiny and public discussion."