

FBI told me to drug Hampton before raid'

Informant tells refusal to aid in plan

By Rob Warden

A woman whom the FBI recently identified as one of its paid informants in the Black Panthers says the FBI asked her to drug Fred Hampton before the 1969 raid in which Hampton was killed.

The FBI refused to comment on the allegation made by Maria Fischer, 39, an ex-convict now on parole for manslaughter.

Ms. Fischer made the charge in a typed statement she gave to a Daily News reporter and to lawyers involved in a \$47.7 million federal court suit stemming from Hampton's death.

The statement said that Marlin Johnson, then special agent in charge of the Chicago FBI office, asked her a week before the fatal Dec. 4, 1969, raid to drug Hampton, but she refused.

MS. FISCHER'S statement quoted Johnson as saying:

"Fred Hampton thinks a lot of you, Maria, so it will be no problem for you to get into his apartment. There are guns in there and we'd like to get in there and get them."

"Panther members in the apartment aren't dangerous, but we have reason to believe Fred Hampton is. All you have to do is see that he



Maria Fischer

gets hold of a substance which is both harmless and tasteless."

Ms. Fischer claims that she had been assured by James Tobin, a Chicago police intelligence

officer who recruited her, that she wouldn't be asked to do anything that could result in harm to anyone.

She said she told Johnson that and he replied:

"That's right. All the substance will do is put him in a deep sleep, and police officers can go into the apartment, get the guns and no one will be harmed."

THE STATEMENT SAID that when she continued to refuse, Johnson told her she "was being very foolish."

Ms. Fischer said that the conversation took place in a grocery store parking lot near downtown. She said she and Johnson talked alone for a few minutes. That was the only conversation she ever had with Johnson, she said.

JOHNSON, WHO IS now an executive with Canteen Corp. and head of the Chicago Police Board, told The Daily News he wouldn't comment because he is a defendant in the suit now pending in federal court.

Tobin, who was transferred out of intelligence after the recent police spy scandal and now assigned to the Austin District, said he doesn't recall ever working with Ms. Fischer.

MS. FISHER WAS identified as a paid informant by FBI documents and by the testimony

of FBI agent Roy Martin Mitchell in the federal case now on trial before U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Sam Perry.

The suit, brought on behalf of survivors of the raid, alleges that Hampton and the Panthers were victims of an FBI-police conspiracy to violate their civil rights.

Since the raid, there has been considerable controversy about whether Hampton was drugged.

Autopsy reports differ on the question.

AN OFFICIAL autopsy found no drugs in Hampton's body, but an independent blood analysis by the acting head of Cook County Hospital's biochemistry department found significant amounts of secobarbital, a barbiturate.

Friends of Hampton have testified at various investigations that Hampton was strongly opposed to narcotics and wouldn't have taken any drug voluntarily.

Panthers who were in the raided apartment with Hampton also have testified that Hampton behaved before the raid as if he had been drugged.

He fell asleep during a telephone conversation about four hours before the raid and Panthers were unable to awaken him, they testified.