

FBI Aide Linked to 'Dirty Tricks'

7/2 9/76



RICHARD G. HELD
... new deputy head of agency

'60s 'Targets' in Minn.

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Richard G. Held, newly appointed deputy head of the FBI, was involved during the late 1960s and early 1970s in the bureau's use of "dirty tricks" to harass and discredit alleged political radicals.

The program, known within the FBI as domestic counterintelligence program, or Cointelpro, was carried out between 1956 and 1971 against such groups as the Communist Party, the Ku Klux Klan, black militant organizations and antiwar protesters.

In its report on FBI intelligence activities, the Senate intelligence committee lists five instances between 1968 and 1970 when the Minneapolis field office, then headed by Held, used disruption tactics against individuals designated as Cointelpro "targets."

According to the intelligence committee report, these tactics were described in memos sent from FBI headquarters in Washington to the Minneapolis office. Although the report did not detail the contents of the memos, reliable sources said that they

See HELD, A23, Col. 1

HELD, From A1

contained Washington's approval for disruption campaigns proposed by the Minneapolis office.

The sources added that the campaigns were aimed against student protesters at the University of Minnesota. The brief descriptions contained in the Senate committee report, although not mentioning names nor identifying the university, tend to confirm this.

The report says that "targeted" individuals included students who carried signs with four-letter words in a demonstration against censorship of the student newspaper and a woman leader of the campus Afro American Action Committee.

Among the tactics used against these targets, the report continues, were attempts to arrange for reporters to interview targets with planted questions, notifying state and local authorities of a target's criminal law violations and anon-

ymous mailings to college administrators.

In the case of the Afro American Action Committee leader, the report said, the FBI sent local officials an anonymous letter describing her adoptive father as a Communist Party member. A similar letter, the report added, was sent to a "local radio announcer who had an 'open mike' program critical of local 'leftist' activity."

Informed sources said that Held, as director of the Minneapolis office at the time, would have been aware of these activities, since he had to approve the field office's suggestions to headquarters and acknowledge Washington's instructions to proceed.

However, the sources added, in many field offices Cointelpro activities frequently were handled directly between Washington and the local office's intelligence section, with the field office director acting as little more than a rubber stamp.

Asked about Held's in-

volvement, an FBI spokesman said, "It would not be proper for either the FBI or Mr. Held to comment on these allegations as the Department of Justice is presently reviewing various aspects of past Cointelpro activities."

FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley appointed Held, 66, to be associate director, the bureau's second-ranking position, on July 20. He replaced Nicholas Callahan, who was abruptly dismissed by Kelley on July 16 in the course of an investigation into "abuses of power" within the bureau.

At the time of his appointment, Held headed the FBI's Chicago office and was the bureau's senior field-office director. FBI sources said he was picked for the deputy's job to underscore Kelley's determination to de-emphasize the influence of Washington-oriented bureaucrats in the agency's management and make the FBI more responsive to the needs of investigative agents in the field.