

# AIM Infiltrator Denounces FBI

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CHICAGO, March 13—A man who said he infiltrated the top ranks of the American Indian Movement (AIM) as an FBI informant denounced the FBI today and offered to testify before "any group investigating that agency."

AIM leaders telegraphed Frank Church (D-Idaho), chairman of the Senate committee investigating FBI and Central Intelligence Agency activities, demanding a full investigation of FBI infiltration of the Indian organization.

The informant, Douglas Durham, 37, told a news conference here he received \$900 to \$1,100 a month in cash for information he supplied the government about AIM activities and legal defense strategy in criminal cases involving Indians and their sympathizers.

The government signed an affidavit denying there were any informers in the defense ranks in trials of some defendants arrested following the 71-day Indian occupation of Wounded Knee, S.D.

Durham said he first infiltrated AIM during the Wounded Knee operation, which began Feb. 27, 1973. Eventually, he rose to chief of security for AIM. In this capacity, he screened all persons who saw Indian leaders.

He also dispensed cash for AIM, helped raise money, was aware of all strategy and travel arrangements, and sometimes served as a personal bodyguard and confi-

dant of Dennis J. Banks, national executive director of the militant organization.

Ken Tilsen of St. Paul, chief AIM counsel, said passing AIM's defense strategy to the FBI constituted an "illegal invasion of the defense." He said AIM will file motions to drop charges against about 30 remaining Wounded Knee defendants and to set aside convictions of nine others.

Tilsen said discovery of the informant "helps explain the dictments [about 150] from Wounded Knee."

Durham said he recently began feeling guilty about his "spying" and eventually planned "to admit to it to my friends in AIM." However, he said he initially denied his FBI activities when confronted by Indian leaders in a Des Moines, Iowa, hotel room Friday with coded documents destined for the government.

"I now regret my involvement. The government had no right to infiltrate a legal, spiritual, and morally right cause like the Indian movement. They should investigate the ripoffs of the Indians by the Department of Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs," Durham said.

Durham said FBI superiors cautioned him about assuming the role of a provocateur and asked him to keep a special lookout for involvement of representatives off foreign governments in AIM activities.