

Ex-Agent Alleges Fraud in F.B.I.; Says Many Informers Are Bogus

By DAVID BURNHAM
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 — A retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said yesterday that he had provided Federal investigators with evidence of 23 separate instances of fraud and corruption within the bureau.

The former agent, who requested that he not be identified by name, was an agent of the F.B.I. for somewhat less than 30 years and has provided the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility with investigative leads, independent checks confirmed.

In interview in Washington, the former agent charged that a significant proportion of the bureau's paid informers were nonexistent and that much of the information purportedly supplied by them was fabricated.

He said that during his assignments to bureau offices in several major cities he became aware of instances in which agents pocketed money officially reported as having been paid to informers. He said the falsification of information

attributed to informers "was accepted procedure" to agents, supervisors, Special Agents in Charge and inspectors.

Sees Link to Lawsuit

The former agent suggested that concern about possible disclosure of bogus informants might be the reason the Justice Department and the F.B.I. have so strenuously resisted court orders to surrender informer files in a \$40 million lawsuit against the bureau by the Socialist Workers Party. The orders, issued by Judge Thomas P. Grimes of Federal District Court in Manhattan, have been resisted by Attorney General Griffin B. Bell on the ground the names of informers would be revealed.

The former agent, who indicated he spent most of his Government career specializing in domestic security matters, said he had decided to provide his information to Federal investigators in hopes of improving the F.B.I.

"There are a lot of agents who would talk if they could because, like me, they want a real F.B.I. and not a paper tiger

that puts itself above the law," he said.

He added that many bureau agents were afraid to tell of misdeeds because their best chance of employment after leaving the bureau is in the security divisions of large companies — divisions usually run by other retired agents.

The former agent, who said he was working on a book about the bureau, made his first public charges against the bureau in a lengthy, tape-recorded inter-

view printed in the December issue of Freedom, a monthly newspaper of the Church of Scientology.

The church and the Justice Department are engaged in complicated litigation in which 11 Scientologists have been indicted on charges of conspiring to plant spies in Government agencies, breaking into Government offices, stealing official documents and bugging Government meetings.