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Stolen Documents Describe FBI Surveillance Activities

By Betty Medsger
Washington Post Staff Writer

Copies of stolen FBI records sent to The Washington Post describe the bureau's surveillance of campus and black activist organizations as done by a diverse group of informants, including on at least one campus, a switchboard operator.

One of the documents encourages agents to step up interviews with dissenters "for plenty of reasons, chief of which are it will enhance the

paranoia endemic in these circles and will further serve to get the point across there is an FBI agent behind every mailbox.

"In addition," continues the Sept. 16, 1970, document, "some will be overcome by the overwhelming personalities of the contacting agent and volunteer to tell all—perhaps on a continuing basis."

Late yesterday, Attorney General John N. Mitchell asked that the documents not be published on grounds that

"disclosure of this information could endanger the lives or cause other serious harm to persons engaged in investigative activities on behalf of the United States."

Copies of the stolen records were received Monday by Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) and Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.). McGovern and Mitchell gave the FBI the documents, believed to be identical to those received by The Washington Post.

See FBI, A11, Col. 1

Records Stolen From FBI De

FBI, From A1

Justice Department sources said yesterday there is no question that the documents are copies of files stolen in a burglary of the FBI's Media, Pa., office on March 8.

The packet received at The Washington Post Tuesday morning contained a covering letter, an additional statement from the Citizens Commission to investigate the FBI, and 14 FBI documents. Most of the FBI documents were on pages marked "United States Government Memorandum."

Various FBI codes were on the records, including the identification numbers of agents and the case numbers of persons under surveillance.

No other congressional offices besides those of McGovern and Rep. Mitchell, reported receiving FBI documents sent by the citizens commission, a group believed to be linked to the peace movement. Files sent to McGovern, Rep. Mitchell and The Washington Post contained a letter signed in the name of the group, which

claimed responsibility for burglary of the FBI office.

Before Attorney General Mitchell made a plea for temporary self-censorship, he said he considered seeking a court order restraining the media from publishing the documents.

Court Route Rejected

A Justice Department aide said the possible court route was discarded in favor of a personal plea. The aide said he expected it would take "between 24 and 48 hours" for the Justice Department to sort through the files to determine what information might harm the government's investigative activities.

"It appears likely that these records include information which would disclose the identity of confidential investigation sources and information relating to the national defense," Attorney General Mitchell said.

"Disclosure of national de-

fense information could injure the United States and give aid to foreign governments whose interests might be inimical to those of the United States. The department is attempting to determine which of the documents stolen may contain such information.

"Pending the speedy completion of such an investigation, the department urgently requests that those who have received copies of the material not to further circulate it or publish it."

One of the stolen documents indicates that black student groups on campuses were to be under surveillance by the FBI according to a Nov. 4, 1970, memorandum issued by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. The memo said in part:

"Increased campus disorders involving black students pose a definite threat to the Nation's stability and security and indicate need for increase in both quality and quantity of

intelligence information on . . . [such] groups which are targets for influence and control by violence-prone Black Panther Party (BPP) and other extremists."

Other Groups Cited

Other documents dealt with the Philadelphia Black Panthers, the National Black Economic Development Conference, and two peace group meetings, one of which was a world conclave of war opponents. Several of the documents were dossiers on individuals not cited as belonging to organizations under surveillance.

One of the individuals under surveillance was a professor at a Philadelphia area college.

The local police chief and a switchboard operator at the college were engaged by the FBI to assist in the surveillance on the professor, according to a document from an FBI agent.

The telephone-operator, ac-

scribe Surveillance Activities

ing to the documents, the FBI agent reported on the switchboard operator yesterday that she was shocked the FBI report. She said the FBI never questioned her about the professor named in the document and that she did not know him. She added that the agent had only asked "certain professors" whose names he was checking were on campus. She denied that she agreed to report on the professor's long-distance calls. "What could cost me my life she said. 'It would be a price to do that.'"

breach of ethics. I would also described in the memo as providing the FBI with information about the professor. **'Working Together'**
In a telephone interview, yesterday, the campus security officer said he would have to confer with the FBI agent before he answered questions "because, as I say, we are working together on this."
A memo from another FBI agent reports on several Black Panther conversations. Most of the reported conversations appeared to be casual personal remarks about travel and organizational activity. The packet of stolen documents included three memoranda on the National Black Economic Development Conference.
At least two federal grand jury investigations of BEDC have been conducted since it promulgated the Black Mani-

festos, a 1969 document that called on the nation's churches and synagogues to pay reparations for racial injustices. No indictments were handed down by either of these grand juries.
Muhammad Kenyatta, a national vice president of the organization and head of the Philadelphia unit, is mentioned several times in the FBI documents on BEDC. **Would Not Comment**
Kenyatta called The Washington Post last night and said he had seen the documents, but would not comment on them. Asked how he had acquired the documents, he said, "The FBI has its system and we have our system."
A six-page memorandum prepared by an FBI agent includes a reproduction of the BEDC checking account statement at the Southeast National Bank in Chester, Pa. during a three-month period last year.

Daniel McGronigle, who was cashier at the time, said yesterday that he had authorized release of this normally confidential information only after the agent presented a court order or subpoena. "I'm sure he did" show such a paper, McGronigle said when interviewed by telephone.
Asked if he would have opened checking account records to an FBI agent on an informal basis, McGronigle said, "No."
Kenyatta and his wife, Mary, are the only two persons authorized to sign checks on the account, said the memo. The balance of the account ranged from a high of \$1,948.56 on April 9, 1970, to a low of \$38.19 on May 14, 1970.
Among the checks drawn during the period the account was under surveillance were \$144.95 for phone bills, a \$300 hospital bill, a \$100 grant to a community center and a \$1,000 clothing allowance.