

College Employes Recruited by FBI To Probe Professor

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When the FBI decided that a Swarthmore College philosophy professor might help alleged radicals suspected of a bank robbery and killing a policeman, it threw up an elaborate net of surveillance.

This is disclosed in one of



FBI's 'Spies' To Be Listed

A list of undercover FBI informers and "provocateurs" is being compiled for publication from the records stolen from the FBI's office in Media, it was revealed Friday night.

In a letter to a Philadelphia newsman, the Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI said it was culling about 1000 memos and documents for names of persons hired by the FBI to spy on civil rights, anti-war and leftist organizations.

The letter called on "all FBI agents, and all who have been trying to subvert the movement for justice and peace by informing on their sisters and brothers to have a change of heart or leave."

The commission added, "In a few days we will contact a first group of these previously undercover agents and suggest they cease their repressive actions . . . Following that, we will make the names of this first group of agents public."

the documents stolen from the FBI office in Media. Of more than 1000 papers stolen in the March 8 burglary, 14 have been copied and distributed to several newspapers.

The U. S. Department of Justice said the investigation of professor Daniel Bennett was routine and not based on his political beliefs. Bennett once invited a Black Panther Party official to speak at Swarthmore and acknowledges that he is sympathetic to the New Left movement. Campus colleagues describe him as quiet.

'ROUTINE' CHECK

According to the stolen documents, the "routine" investigation included enlisting the chief of the college security guard, the Swarthmore Borough police chief, a telephone operator at the college, the Swarthmore postmaster and a letter carrier to keep tabs on Bennett.

The episode has been described in published accounts of the Media burglary, but the professor and the campus where he teaches have not been previously identified.

In a telephone interview from Los Angeles, where he is on leave of absence from Swarthmore, Bennett said Friday that he suspected the document concerned him and wanted to get his comments before the public.

Bennett disputed the statement of a Justice Department official who said this week that the FBI was acting on information that two young women wanted in connection with the Boston robbery-slashing might contact him. The suspects are Susan Saxe, 20, and Katherine Power, 21, who formerly attended Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

Bennett previously taught at Brandeis University, and that was the reason the FBI said they believed the young wom-

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en might turn to him for help in evading the authorities. Both young women have been placed on the FBI's "most wanted" list.

"I don't believe I know

these women," Bennett said. "Susan Saxe might have been in one of my classes at Brandeis. Her picture looks familiar. But I can't say I've ever met her or spoken with her."

A spokesman at Brandeis said university records showed that Miss Saxe had transferred to Brandeis in September 1968. Bennett had left the school in June of that year to take his present job at Swarthmore.

The stolen documents indicate that the operator of the Swarthmore telephone switchboard agreed to keep track of the professor's long-distance calls. Repeated calls to her home on Friday yielded no answer, and the college switchboard is closed for the school's spring vacation. However, she has denied that she kept track of the calls in a published account.

Police Chief William G. Weidner had no comment when questioned about his alleged activities in the case. When The Inquirer called the campus security chief at home, there was no answer

and he could not be located on the deserted campus.

Asked why he thought the FBI would investigate his association with individuals he denies ever having known, Bennett said:

"The FBI uses every loose connection of association as an excuse to investigate. Since Susan Saxe attended Brandeis . . . that gave them excuse enough to watch me."

Bennett charged the FBI with being indiscriminate in its investigations and using the "buckshot method."

"The FBI conducts their business like the government conducts the war in Indochina," he said to illustrate his point. "We drop bombs everywhere hoping to hit the target. More often than not, it misses."

A group identified as the Citizens Committee to Investigate the FBI has claimed responsibility for stealing the documents, which include confidential reports on black groups in the Delaware Valley, black rights leader Muhammad Kenyata and Bennett.

The document said Bennett

had two children and one car. He has one child and two cars.

"That's what makes this thing so fantastic," Bennett said. "They enlist spies, but their technique is so heavy-footed, they can't even get the information correct. On the inaccurate word of any informant anyone could find himself in an FBI file."

Asked if he thought of himself as a radical, Bennett said:

"J. Edgar Hoover (director of the FBI) is the radical. He operates in a clandestine fashion in which his secret police meddle into the lives of innocent people."

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