

FBI Checks on Rep. Reuss's Family

By Jack Anderson

The FBI has sworn it doesn't investigate congressmen, but it has spent an extraordinary amount of time stalking the family of one.

An indignant Rep. Henry Reuss (D-Wis.) learned last year that the FBI had been checking on his 22-year-old daughter, Jacqueline. What he doesn't know is that the FBI is also spying on his 25-year-old son, Michael.

Reuss is a solid sort, who devotes himself largely to banking legislation. He was once a director of a bank, but he isn't likely to rob one.

His wife, Margaret, occupies her spare time teaching economics at Washington's Federal City College. The four children attended prestigious private schools. All are eminently respectable and unlikely criminals.

True, Reuss is considered a bit of a radical in banking circles because of his liberal Democratic views. A decorated infantry officer during World War II, he is also against war. His wife and children, too, are active in the peace movement.

This is what aroused the FBI's suspicions about the Reusses. The FBI, you see, has become political in recent years, and antiwar activity is against the FBI's ideology.

The G-men, therefore, literally spend more time investigating peace activists than Mafia gangsters.

SUSPICIOUS FRIEND

The darkest charge the FBI could make against Mike Reuss was that he had been "a friend of Robert Avakian." The FBI dossier on Reuss contains a confidential note that Avakian "has been publicly identified as a member of the Central Committee of the Bay Area RU (Revolutionary Union)."

This group is identified by an FBI "source" as a "revolutionary, Marxist-Leninist organization ideologically oriented toward Communist China." The dossier doesn't charge that young Reuss is affiliated with the group but merely that he knows someone who is.

The surveillance reports on Reuss also assert ominously that in July, 1969, he lived in Lafayette, Calif., at "the residence of Mark Silverman." It turns out that Silverman is a "Stanford University student spokesman" who is opposed to the draft.

Reuss spent part of 1969 living with his brother, Christopher, in Richmond, Calif. The G-men found this out, according to the hush-hush reports, "through the use of a suitable pretext call."

Special Agent Paul W. Shields also discovered "that as of March 28, 1967, Michael Reuss was a VISTA worker managing a quilt factory in Jackson, Kentucky."

Several pages in the Reuss dossier are devoted to newspaper accounts of the young man's arrest during a civil rights demonstration at West Point, Miss., on Aug. 6, 1965. Because a highway patrolman suffered a heart attack during the confrontation, some of the demonstrators, including Reuss, were charged with manslaughter. He was later cleared of any blame.

The congressman's son and daughter are typical of the "desperados" who now seem to occupy most of the FBI's attention.

WASHINGTON WHIRL

McGovern vs. O'Brien—If Sen. George McGovern wins the Democratic presidential nomination, Democratic National Chairman Larry O'Brien will be fired. This is the word from the McGovern camp. McGovern will also divorce his campaign organization from the old guard Democratic National Committee. He has already incorporated his McGovern For President organization as a separate entity. His plan is not only to remove it from the regular party

machinery but also to avoid the kind of lawsuits that were filed individually against Eugene McCarthy and the late Robert Kennedy's estate to collect 1968 campaign debts. By forming a corporation, McGovern can avoid personal responsibility. He intends to work with the party regulars, however, in the presidential campaign.

Dirty Dozen—Environmental Action, a conservation group, has drawn up its list of Congress' "Dirty Dozen"—the 12 House members from marginal districts who "do the most to help pollute the environment." The choice is based on the congressmen's stands on such issues as the SST, clean water bills, the Amchitka atomic blast and even family planning. In 1970, Environmental Action claims it helped eliminate seven of that year's "Dirty Dozen" at the polls. This year, the "Dirty Dozen" are Reps. Wayne Aspinall (D-Colo.), Walter Baring (D-Nev.), Earle Cabell (D-Tex.), Charles Chamberlain (R-Mich.), James Delaney (D-N.Y.), Samuel Devine (R-Ohio), Earl Landgrebe (R-Ind.), Sherman Lloyd (R-Utah), Peter Peyser (R-N.Y.), John Rooney (D-N.Y.), Vernon Thomson (R-Wis.) and Roger Zion (R-Ind.).