

'Friends of the FBI' Plan Study Of Agency as Protector of Public

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Claiming to have "greater intellectual resources" than Congress, a group called Friends of the FBI announced yesterday that it is financing a \$70,000 private study of the FBI "as an institution protecting the public from militant, radical aims."

The study is being conducted by Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, a Chicago group originally founded as a counterpart to the American Civil Liberties Union. The AELE often supports the government's position in criminal court cases and has been praised by Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

The study is aimed at counteracting what Jay A. Parker, Negro president of the Friends, called "the continuing campaign against the FBI most recently evidenced by the grossly one-sided Princeton conference."

Civil liberty advocates and former Justice Department officials were among those who attended a conference on the FBI recently at Princeton University to determine, among other things, whether the FBI should combine both criminal investigations and security surveillance.

Richard O. Writh, the AELE representative at Princeton,

dismissed a suggestion at a news conference that Congress might more appropriately study the FBI than a private group.

"We can command greater intellectual resources," he said. "Congress doesn't really have the means or the opportunity to explore the deeper questions and Congress isn't going to get any more information from the FBI than we are—probably less."

Parker said his group has no connection with the FBI and promised the study would not be "a whitewash of either J. Edgar Hoover or the FBI."