

Probe of FBI Burglary Role Urged

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A Denver grand jury has recommended that the records of its inquiry into the FBI's role in a July 7 burglary against the Socialist Workers Party be sent to the Justice Department and the Senate intelligence committee.

The jury also said that it wanted publicly to urge federal officials to take greater care in ensuring that "only responsible FBI agents" be assigned to future domestic security investigations.

These two unusual steps were taken by a Denver County grand jury that Thursday indicted Timothy J. Redfearn, a former paid FBI informer, on charges that he broke into the SWP's Denver office and stole documents.

The case sparked nationwide attention because the SWP, a small leftist party, is suing the FBI and other federal agencies for \$40 million, charging them with illegal harassment. Because of the pending suit, the SWP was able to force the FBI to disclose Redfearn's file.

Documents in the file showed that although Redfearn acted without authorization, the FBI's Denver field office was aware of his participation in the break-in within hours. But the FBI concealed from the Denver police for eight days the information that an FBI informer had committed a burglary.

Also in Redfearn's file were receipt forms indicating that his case officer in the Denver office, John V. Almon, had accepted documents taken in the burglary. Before the information on the receipts was made public, Almon, in a sworn statement to the Denver district attorney's office, had denied receiving any of the stolen material.

Other documents in Redfearn's file showed that in December, 1973, he committed two other burglaries against the SWP and turned stolen material over to the FBI. However, the FBI never reported these burglaries to the police and continued to employ Redfearn as an informer.

Sources familiar with the investigation said the Denver grand jury had considered the possibility of perjury or conspiracy indictments against Almon and some of his superiors in the Denver office. But, the sources added, the panel concluded it did not have sufficient evidence.

It did ask the Denver County District Court to forward its records—comprising thousands of transcript pages and more than 70 exhibits—to Washington for further investigation.

The Justice Department currently is investigating allegations of illegal FBI burglaries against political group and has indicated that the Denver break-ins would be included in this probe.

Dale Tooley, Denver County district attorney, said

yesterday that he plans to bring the records to Washington and turn them over to the Justice Department and the Senate committee on Monday.

Asked if the FBI planned any investigation or disciplinary action against Almon and his Denver superiors, a bureau spokesman said yesterday, "We will have no comment since this is a matter under review by the Justice Department."