

SAYS CARTER BILL COULD
BE COUP DE GRACE TO FBI

F. P. ...
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To The Editor, Sir:

The people of this country must be informed of the latest in a series of steps taken by the Carter Administration which, whether intentional or not, are calculated to utterly destroy the effectiveness of the FBI in enforcing most of the general Federal law and even more importantly, protecting this great country from the enemies at home and abroad who would subvert, overthrow or militarily defeat us.

It should be made perfectly clear that all countries, democratic or tyrannical, depend on the acquisition of intelligence data and a counter-intelligence capability against the espionage strategies of potential enemies in order to defend themselves. No less a person than Soviet dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn has clearly stated that the zeal of this country to protect the individual rights of its citizens has stripped its ability to defend itself from its enemies at home and abroad.

Any student of foreign intelligence is dismayed by the fact that the grossly distorted attacks on the CIA and the FBI have effectively destroyed the intelligence and counter-intelligence capabilities of the United States for twenty to twenty-five years into the future.

But what serves to compound this tragic circumstance is the latest effort of the Carter Administration to reduce

the stature of the FBI by removing its exemption from the Civil Service system.

Not only does it violate the commitment to Mr. Hoover given so many years ago, but it is my understanding that it also violates another commitment from the Administration to Judge William H. Webster at the time he was selected. Judge Webster represents one of President Carter's finest appointments.

When Mr. Hoover was persuaded to take over the leadership of the old Bureau of Investigation in 1927, a corrupt and inefficient investigative arm of the Department of Justice, he did so only when the Attorney General Harlan Fiske Stone promised to remove the Bureau from the Civil Service System.

Mr. Hoover knew that he could only control such inefficiency and corruption and build the organization which he ultimately did by being the sole determiner of who was to be hired and who should be fired. Anyone familiar with the Federal bureaucracy knows the Federal agencies find it almost impossible to rid themselves of dishonest and incompetent employees, much less to maintain the high degree of discipline necessary in any law enforcement organization.

For the past fifty some years, the FBI has processed its own employee applications and selected its own employees. This bill — S. B. 2640 and H. B. 11, 280 — could well be the coup de' grace to the FBI.

ROBERT L. VAN WAGONER
Maryland Chapter Former Special
Agents of the FBI
4004 Cooks Lane
Ellicott City, Md. 21043