

Socialist Workers Call on U.S. To Purge Unit of Informers

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By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Socialist Workers Party called on the Justice Department yesterday to follow up its decision halting the FBI's 38-year investigation of the party by purging the party of the 66 government informers still in its ranks.

The party's presidential candidate, Peter Camejo, said at a press conference here that the party also would press for surrender of the FBI's 8 million pages of files on the party and for a permanent court injunction against continued harassment by the FBI and other government intelligence agencies.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi, it was disclosed Tuesday ordered a halt to the investigation of the party and its student affiliate, the Young Socialist Alliance, after a special review showed that the inquiry could not be justified under recently adopted guidelines for domestic security investigations.

The SWP has a \$40 million lawsuit pending against the government that has resulted in the disclosure of repeated burglaries by FBI agents and many acts of deliberate FBI harassment.

Despite its intense surveillance, the FBI has never secured criminal charges against any SWP or YSA

member since 1940 when some were convicted under the Smith Act, a law later declared unconstitutional.

"We recognize it for what it is: it's a confession," Camejo said of the order ending the inquiry. "Levi's action is a product not of concern directly for civil liberties, but of pressure. They're cutting their losses."

Camejo said information brought out by the lawsuit has established that there were still 66 government informers in the SWP and the YSA "as of last week."

"We are awaiting the 66 resignations," he said.

One of the lawyers representing the party, Sydney Stapleton of the Political Rights Defense Fund, said that the government has planted 316 informers in the party or its student alliance over the years and at one point had as many as 110 at work.

Another 1,300 individuals occasionally supplied the government with information about the party, Stapleton said.

The SWP currently has some 2,500 members who attend its regular meetings, and the YSA has about 1,500 members, party officials reported.

Stapleton estimated that it would take another two years of legal discovery efforts before the SWP could be satisfied that all necessary disclosures have been made.