

New York Times

— NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1976 —

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F.B.I. MAN ADMITS ROLE IN BREAK-INS

Agent Testifies to 50 to 90 Burglaries in 7 Years at Socialist Workers Offices

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 28 — An agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has testified under oath that he participated in "between 50 and 90" burglaries of the Socialist Workers Party headquarters in New York, according to a deposition made public today.

George P. Baxtrum Jr., a special agent since 1946, who is now attached to the bureau's Milwaukee office, said that between 1958 and 1965 he made "surreptitious entries" into the party's headquarters at 116 University Place in Manhattan to search desks, photograph documents and, on occasion, place microphones for electronic eavesdropping.

Admission Under Oath

Mr. Baxtrum, in a deposition taken in New York last June, said he had been told that each burglary and the placing of the microphones had been authorized by the bureau's headquarters in Washington. This is the first time an F.B.I. agent has admitted under oath participating in burglaries, though the bureau acknowledged the burglaries in the socialist party's case earlier this year.

Mr. Baxtrum also testified that he was presented commendations for the information he had obtained through the burglaries.

Mr. Baxtrum is one of the defendants in a \$37 million damage suit filed by the Socialist Workers against present and former Government officials. Other defendants include

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John F. Malone, who was special agent in charge of the New York office in the period of the burglaries, and Arthur J. Green Jr., an agent who along with Mr. Baxtrum was assigned to the S.W.P. case.

Meanwhile, the Society of Former Special Agents of the F.B.I. Inc., has created a fund to help pay for the legal defenses of present and former agents accused of burglaries in the line of duty. The society has retained Edward P. Morgan, a Washington lawyer and former chief inspector of the bureau, to organize the defense for any agent accused of burglaries in the current Justice Department investigation.

To Defend Agents

Mr. Morgan said in an interview that the society voted to take the action to help agents who had taken action in what were called national and domestic security investigations that they believed in "good faith" had been ordered by the proper authorities in the bureau's headquarters and the Justice Department.

The Justice Department is investigating allegations that bureau agents committed, as recently as last year, burglaries that would be within the statute of limitations and could result in felony indictments.

Mr. Baxtrum testified that the last entry he was involved in took place in 1965. He said that he had been assigned to investigate the Socialist Workers when he arrived in the New York field office in 1953 and was first asked to commit an illegal entry in November 1958. He said the first order was given orally by his "section chief" in New York.

"It is my recollection that I was told we would probably have access to national security

information which we did not have access through any other means, by the use of surreptitious entry," he said.

Mr. Baxtrum said that between his first entry, in November 1958 and 1965, he obtained individual authorization from his section chief in New York for every entry. He said they were performed at three-and-four-week intervals, when the agents determined the Socialist Workers might have made policy changes.

Mr. Baxtrum said the bulk of the burglaries he had been involved in occurred at the party's headquarters on University Place. But he added that he had also secretly entered the headquarters of the Young Socialist Alliance, a group associated with the party, on Fourth Avenue north of Greenwich Village. He said on several occasions the agents had placed electronic transmitting devices and microphones in the walls to listen to socialist meetings.

He said they once bugged Wurdemann's Hall, an auditorium the Socialist Workers rented on the East Side. In another instance, he said, the bureau bugged a hotel where the party was having a convention, but he said he could not remember the hotel's name.

Mr. Baxtrum said one of the few times he met Mr. Malone had been when he himself was given a commendation for information obtained by illegal entry.

"I was called to his office and presented with a commendation for the information of value to the United States which had been obtained. He congratulated me," Mr. Baxtrum said.

Mr. Baxtrum said teams of five or six agents entered Socialist Workers headquarters during the searches while five or so kept watch outside.

Files Disclose Sort of Data And Informant F.B.I. Uses

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times

DENVER, Aug. 1—Nearly 2,000 pages of confidential files made public here last week have provided the first comprehensive look at the sort of information collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on radical organizations in this country and at the kind of individuals the bureau hires to inform on them.

The files, produced over the last five years by an F.B.I. informant, Timothy Redfearn, are concerned only with the Denver branch of the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyite organization with about 60 members here.

The party is one of dozens of organizations penetrated by thousands of F.B.I. informants over the last two decades, but it is the first to have asked the courts for permission to see the results of the bureau's surveillance of it, something that was ordered in New York City last week by Federal Judge Thomas P. Grisea.

Rumor and Gossip

The files contain dozens of written reports by Mr. Redfearn on every aspect of the Socialist Workers Party's activities, as well as gossip and a variety of unsubstantiated rumor. They also show that the F.B.I. continued to employ Mr. Redfearn and to praise his work after it had learned of his extensive criminal record and his history as a psychiatric patient.

It is Mr. Redfearn's theft of documents from the party's office here over the last three years, including one on July 7, that has led to local and Federal investigations of two Denver F.B.I. agents to whom he reported and who, according to the files, received and retained some of the stolen materials in the bureau's records.

In addition to informing on the party's activities, which appear to have consisted mainly of demonstrations and meetings, which Mr. Redfearn frequently described as "boring," the many written reports he submitted to the two agents, Boyd D. Adsit, now retired, and John W. Almon, included everything from the substance of casually overheard conversations to the sex habits of party members.

Trivial Tales

Much of Mr. Redfearn's reporting, for which he was paid several hundred dollars a month, was trivia, recounting what party members ate for dinner, how heavily they smoked cigarettes, and the state of their health.

The trivia and minutiae was filed by the F.B.I. along with more substantial facts and with Mr. Redfearn's observations, many of which were pejorative and others that were incorrect.

Mr. Redfearn's writing was laced, for example, with such words as "nigger" and "queer," and his account of a speech by a local feminist noted that "she talked about birth control, and the right to control her own body."

"Judging from the looks of her body, no one else would want to control it," he wrote.

In another instance, Mr. Redfearn reported that a woman had become "the new S.W.P. organizer" in Denver, but the description he provided of her was that of another party member.

According to the F.B.I. files, agents here were well aware of Mr. Redfearn's criminal and psychiatric histories while lauding his performance in internal memorandums and seeking approval from Washington for several increases in his salary.

In 1973, more than two years after he began his career as an F.B.I. informant, Mr. Redfearn became the subject of a Federal extortion investigation after he sent threatening letters to a Denver resident occasioned by a woman whose affection they both sought.

That case, which was investigated by Mr. Adsit, who was also "handling" Mr. Redfearn as an informant at the time, did not result in any prosecutions, nor have any of the other criminal charges lodged against him by the local authorities during his relationship with the F.B.I.

Three months later, Mr. Redfearn's file, which contained evidence of that investigation, as well as of some recent burglaries of the Socialist Workers, was rated "administra-

tively sound" by the F.B.I.'s inspection division and his performance was termed "excellent." The file also contained a check sheet on informants in which his "patriotism" was assessed.

Not Prosecuted

After Mr. Redfearn was arrested by the Denver police in February 1975 in the theft of \$19,000 in guns and other items from an East Denver home, he admitted to that burglary and six others in the area. He was not prosecuted in any of those cases after he promised the court he would no longer associate with known criminals.

Mr. Redfearn, who is 25 years old, graduated in 1973 from Metropolitan State College here and later undertook graduate study at Denver University.

The F.B.I. file, which reflects that Mr. Redfearn was hospitalized for nearly a month for treatment of a "depressed condition occasioned by his arrest," shows that his services as an F.B.I. informant were terminated in April of last year, following that arrest.

One month later, however, the F.B.I. office in Denver reinstated him after he "expressed deep regret concerning his criminal activities [and] strongly insisted he would never become involved in any illegal activities in the future."

Less than a year after his arrest, his salary was increased to \$400 a month, his performance continued to receive high ratings from F.B.I. inspectors, and, just last June, he was termed "stable and reliable" by the Denver F.B.I. office.

According to the last document in Mr. Redfearn's file, "Informant was advised that the reporting agent did not contemplate any future contact with him and that under the circumstances no further payment could be expected by him. He asked if this situation was to be considered as permanent and was advised in the affirmative."