

Hoover Books Ghostwritten at FBI

By Jack Anderson

That tireless guardian of the nation's morals, J. Edgar Hoover, has collected more than \$250,000 in royalties from three books researched and ghostwritten for him by FBI agents on government time.

This is an offense, if it had been committed by some other government official, that the FBI might have been asked to investigate. For the money rightfully should have gone to the taxpayers, who paid the salaries of the FBI researchers and writers.

In defense of Hoover, friends say he turned over the proceeds to his favorite charities. They cited the J. Edgar Hoover Foundation whose records we immediately inspected. No royalty payments nor cash donations were listed from the FBI chief.

We also determined that royalty checks were made out to Hoover personally, not to charities.

Of the three books, the biggest money maker was "Masters of Deceit," published in 1958 by Holt (not Holt, Rinehart and Winston), which sold almost 250,000 copies. Then it was bought up by Pocketbook, which sold two million paperback copies.

In 1964, Warner Brothers paid Hoover a reported \$50,000 for the movie rights, although no movie was ever made of the book. Insiders suggest the payment was intended to but-

ter up the old bear so he would permit Warner Brothers to film the popular TV series, "The FBI."

TV Rights

Again, the taxpayers, not Hoover, should have been paid for the TV rights to FBI stories. For the FBI, after all, is a government agency, not Hoover's private police.

The FBI chief's book, "Study of Communism," published by Holt in 1962, sold some 125,000 copies. And a paste-up collection of Hoover's sayings, published by Random House as a book entitled "On Communism," sold around 40,000 copies.

Insiders say the man who authored Hoover's best prose is Special Agent F. C. Stukenbroeker, a talented Ph.D., whose sinewy writing would have made him a fine author in his own right. Stukenbroeker gulped out an "of course I can't say anything about that," when we asked him how much of the three Hoover books he had written and whether he received a bonus for them.

The research for the three books, we also have learned, was done on government time by FBI employees. They drew heavily from the files of the Domestic Intelligence Division, an ex-FBI bigwig told us. The arrangements for the books and the TV series were also handled largely by FBI men on government time.

Footnote: We tried in vain to get a response from the embattled old G-man. A spokesman would say only, "No comment."

Washington Whirl

Federal Infiltrators — Hundreds of federal agents, dressed in hippie garb, infiltrated the recent antiwar demonstrations in Washington. Most effective were the narcotics agents, who speak the language of the drug culture and wear their hair long and unkempt as a regular guise. They submitted handwritten reports, claiming hawkers sold drugs instead of hot dogs to the crowds and sexual intercourse was a spectator sport. They reported that some of the LSD was diluted with strychnine, causing serious illnesses. One reported quoted Rennie Davis, the demonstration leader, as planning to dress radical girls as tourists, provide them with cans of lighter fluid and have them set fires in government buildings.

Nixon's News — We have had access to President Nixon's private news digests for last week. We found an occasional personal comment from Pat Buchanan who prepares them. In one aside, he suggested that The Washington Post's coverage of the antiwar demonstrations indicated the paper was seeking a national award. And a Buchanan aide,

reporting on a George Wallace TV appearance, noted that the performance was smooth but that Wallace spoke from the "gut." On the whole, however, we found the presidential news summaries carefully objective. Most stories were boiled down to the bare bones, but the total impact was comprehensive.

Heroin Smuggling — The Customs Bureau has ordered a thorough search of returning GIs and incoming parcels from Vietnam to curb the flow of supergrade Saigon heroin into this country. Insiders tell us, however, that some GIs send heroin home in first-class envelopes, which have been ironed so they will go through the mails without detection. Others dip their writing paper in a heroin water solution. After it dries, they write seemingly innocent letters which can be moistened and squeezed for heroin injections. Then the letters can be shredded and smoked in cigarettes or pipes.

Postal Nepotism — The Post Office has developed a new form of nepotism. When Assistant Postmaster General James Hargrove testified on Capitol Hill recently, he took along his brother Clyde as counsel. The Post Office told us, however, that Clyde Hargrove made little profit from the appearance: a token \$1 fee.