

Hoover Has Hangup About Hair

Jack Anderson

J. Edgar Hoover, the 76-year-old FBI chief, has a hangup about hair. He's inclined to measure an employee's fidelity by the length of his locks.

Last June, for instance, the old curmudgeon saw a picture in the Washington Post of three FBI agents hustling an airline hijacker, Glen E. Riggs, into the U.S. magistrate's court in Alexandria, Va. One of the agents, John F. Mullen, had sideburns extending almost to the bottom of his ear.

This violated Hoover's taste in sideburns. In a huff, he censured Mullen for letting his sideburns grow too long and banished him to Indianapolis.

Now Hoover has ordered an FBI-wide inspection, division by division, for subversive sideburns and hippy hairdos. Anyone whose hair style doesn't suit the old man will lose ten days pay.

Some FBI agents have complained privately that Hoover's tonsorial tastes make it difficult for them to infiltrate anti-government demonstrations. The demonstrators, invariably, wear their hair long and straggly.

Narcotics agents, who carefully cultivate the hippy look and lingo, have been far more successful at infiltration. They are contemptuous, indeed, of the FBI. As one narcotics agent

put it to us, "An FBI man's idea of infiltrating a hippy group is taking off his tie."

Spilled Oil

A huge Texas company that does a big business with the oil companies has been hired by the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the disastrous offshore oil spills and fires caused by the same companies.

The company is Texas Instruments, an \$827-million-a-year concern whose board of directors until recently included no less an oily politico than John Connally, LBJ's old sidekick, who is Nixon's Treasury Secretary.

Officials at Texas Instruments are not at all embarrassed at having been hired to investigate one of their biggest customers. Indeed, in proper Texas fashion, they seem positively proud of it.

"We do business with all the major oil companies and all the minor oil companies," said Frank Lord, one of TI's public relations boosters.

Lord explained that aside from making equipment that could be used by oil drillers, Texas Instruments has one whole division devoted to performing seismic surveys of oil fields prior to drilling.

At the same time, he acknowledged, the company has signed a contract with EPA to do "surveys and investigations to determine the sources,

causes, effects, movement or dispersions" of oil spills.

So far the company has investigated three major oil disasters: the Shell oil fire in the Gulf of Mexico last December; the Standard of California tanker collision near San Francisco in February and the Texaco spill near Anacortes in Puget Sound last April.

EPA officials stress that Texas Instruments has played no role in finding fault for the disasters, but was merely involved in determining the extent of the ecological harm.

This still creates an opportunity for a company, caught in a conflict of interest, to do its customer a favor. For a report minimizing the environmental harm from an oil spill would be of great public relations value to an oil company.

Nevertheless, the EPA insists that Texas Instruments has done a "professional job."

Pentagon Pipeline

Catch 22—Three Air Force enlistees, known as the Phut Cat Three, have been caught in a Catch 22 scenario. The trio—Sgt. James Crawford, AFC Charles Wells and AFC John Tomhave who hail, incidentally from conservative, all-American backgrounds—have been tossed in the brig at Long Binh, Vietnam, for refusing to carry weapons. They volunteered for Vietnam, became disillusioned over the slaughter of Vietnamese civilians

and refused to bear arms any longer. They were promptly court-martialed and slapped into the brig for six months. Now they have been denied access to political literature while they sweat out their sentences awaiting a review of their case. Among the books that the Air Force apparently regards as subversive are Justice William O. Douglas' "Points of Rebellion," Andy Shapp's "Up Against the Brass," John Robinson's "Cultural Revolution in China," and Fred Halstead's "GIs Speak Out Against the War."

Suppressing News—We have obtained documentary evidence that the Pentagon, despite official denials, sometimes suppresses news. Here's an order, still classified, that was issued in March, 1970, about the Cambodian incursion: "In view of the sensitivity of the situation, all members of this command are enjoined to refrain from making any comments, prognostications, or speculations concerning the situation, its impact on Republic of Vietnam or U.S. forces, or the possible final outcome. Not only are official on-the-record comments to be avoided, but any type of comment or background orientation on a not-for-attribution or off-the-record basis is similarly to be avoided." The order covered political as well as military information.