

Hoover Dresses Down Untidy Agent

By Jack Anderson

When an FBI agent guns down a lawbreaker hereafter, the G-man had better make sure he's properly attired.

Agent Kenneth W. Lovin learned this lesson last month after picking off an armed hijacker with a high-powered rifle at New York's Kennedy International Airport.

A picture of Lovin, crouched with his rifle behind a barricade on the runway, was flashed to newspapers by the Associated Press. Unhappily for Lovin, he had removed his jacket for the action.

J. Edgar Hoover, who likes all his agents to be pressed and pomaded, saw the picture of Lovin in shirtsleeves and let out a roar of displeasure.

The unfortunate Lovin was disciplined. The even more unfortunate hijacker, Richard Obergfell, died of bullet wounds.

Earlier, we told how Hoover had censured and transferred another agent, John F. Mullen, whose picture appeared in The Washington Post with sideburns extending almost to the bottom of his ear. Although the sideburns were neat enough, they were too long to suit Hoover.

The 76-year-old FBI chief would like his agents, one and all, to look like Efrem Zimbalist Jr., the star of the FBI TV series. The old bulldog not only requires agents to dress for crime fighting in tie and

jacket, to adopt Efrem Zimbalist hair styles and to keep their sideburns short.

Footnote: Called for comment at his New York City office, Agent Lovin said politely: "I have been instructed by my superiors to make no statement at all regarding the incident." Mullen was reached at his new post in Indianapolis. When he learned who was calling him, he stammered an apology and hung up.

D.C. 'Washerwomen'

An attack on the ecology movement, which refers to some prominent Washington wives as "washerwomen," has been circulated at public expense at the highest levels of the Commerce Department.

The controversial document, prepared by the respected public relations firm of Hill & Knowlton, also depicts Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) as "crashing" a party held by environmental activists.

The ladies labeled as "washerwomen" include Mrs. Richard Helms, wife of the CIA director; Mrs. Russell Train, wife of President Nixon's environmental adviser; Mrs. Paul Ignatius, wife of the former Navy Secretary who is now president of The Washington Post; Mrs. Robert Kintner, wife of the ex-president of NBC; and Mrs. William Grayson, whose husband is a former head of the Washington chapter of the Audubon Society.

The public relations report, intended to be confidential, is entitled "Slings and Arrows, Inc.: A Report on the Activists." It portrays environmental action groups as determined anti-business crusaders who have latched on to the ecology issue because it has public appeal and can be exploited to make life miserable for the nation's poor, beleaguered corporations.

"A few dedicated people with a little money, a lot of publicity and an idea with great appeal can today launch what appear to be mass movements, can influence politicians, harass industry, use laws and courts and regulatory bodies . . ." charges the report.

One target of the report is Campaign GM, the project to force General Motors to behave more responsibly. The campaign's objectives are summed up by the report in two words: "Screwball? Yes!"

A spokesman for the Commerce Department acknowledged that about 50 copies of the 33-page document had been made and distributed to the department's "secretarial officers."

It was sent around with an attached message from Bud Litton, the department's public relations chief, that the report contained "interesting information on interlocking relationships of environmental groups," the spokesman said. He claimed distribution of such material was unusual and

did not necessarily imply the department's endorsement.

Headlines, Footnotes

Zoological Lesson—Our report on the wretched conditions in some zoos has brought an avalanche of mail. One of the most compelling letters came from our column-writing colleague, Cleveland Amory, who suggested men could learn from animals. "Giraffes," he wrote, "don't use their forefeet, with which they can kill lions, on other giraffes. Rattlesnakes fight each other without using their deadly venom. Skunks squirt their secretion at predators, not at other skunks. Some day man, too, will renounce nuclear and biological weaponry. Then at least we can say he has the brains of a giraffe, the sense of a rattlesnake and the decency of a skunk."

Raiford Report—Last February, Florida penal officials lashed at us for reporting that Raiford prison guards had fired without provocation at prisoners demonstrating against harsh treatment. Now, a Florida grand jury has found that the shooting "was not provoked by any significant, overt act of the inmates." Instead, the guards' shotgun and machinegun fire was blamed on the "indecisiveness and apparent bankruptcy of leadership on the part" of the same prison officials who denied our charges.

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