

FBI And CIA Investigate Wheat Spy

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency are looking into a case involving telephone calls last summer by a "Mr. Smith" who told a Kansas City trade magazine details of U.S.-Soviet grain transactions.

Officials of the Milling & Baking News said Thursday federal agents had interviewed the magazine's editor, Morton Sosland, a few days before he published an account of Mr. Smith's calls on Oct. 3.

The FBI here also has interviewed at least one newsman who has covered the U.S.-Soviet

grain deal. The agents discussed Mr. Smith and the calls made to Kansas City.

About \$1 billion worth of U.S. grain, mostly wheat, was sold to the Russians this year. Sen. George McGovern and others have said the Agriculture Department withheld information from farmers, causing some to sell grain at lower prices when they could have waited until the market went up because of the huge sales.

The Milling & Banking News is a weekly magazine which circulates mainly to the grain trade and allied interests. Sos-

land was out of town and not available for comment.

However, two officials of the magazine, who asked not to be identified by name, said in a telephone interview that a CIA agent had visited with Sosland once before publication of the article and that FBI gents had been in the office "several times" but not in recent days.

According to Sosland's article, a series of telephone calls was received from a man who initially identified himself as "John Smith" of the London Financial Times.

Later, after Sosland found the London newspaper employed no such expert, Mr. Smith said he was an international grain spy.

The calls began on July 17, before the size of the U.S. wheat sales became generally known. For nearly a month in successive calls, Sosland said, Mr. Smith provided tips pointing to a much larger sale than anyone publicly knew at the time.

mounted about the sales, Vice President Spiro Agnew said the White House had ordered the FBI into the case.

A week ago, Rep. Roman C. Pucinsky, D-Ill., said the calls by Mr. Smith possibly were made by a USDA employe "with a conscience" who decided to inform the public by contacting the Kansas City magazine.

Pucinski, who is seeking the Senate seat held by Charles Percy, R-Ill., also says the Agriculture Department held back earlier reports by the CIA indicating serious crop shortages in Russia, thus pointing logically to a large wheat sale by the United States.

Wheat prices soared in late July and August after it began to be known the Russians had bought far in excess of what had been indicated earlier.