

Brother-Sister Act

Big Brother has been poking around the house so long we hardly notice him. But we're just beginning to get used to Big Sister, though she too has been snooping about for years. The pair of them, J. Edgar Hoover and Frances Knight, are beings "darkly wise and rudely great," seeing-eyes without which odd, subversive citizens would walk the streets unwatched. His Federal Bureau of Investigation is housed in the Justice Department. But except for a brief interlude when an Attorney General had a brother in the White House, no one has thought the FBI anything but an independent enclave. Her Passport Office is, according to the

Table of Organization, a part of the State Department and subject to its regulations. But that has been a disguise for the entertainment of the innocent.

Mr. Hoover's name was last linked with Miss Knight's when it became known that her office was trying to help him get the goods on American Tourists (suspected Communist sympathizers) when they travel abroad. Since the FBI cannot legally snoop on Americans overseas, Miss Knight has been helping out by relaying requests for pertinent information to US Embassies. Most of it consisted of clippings from foreign newspapers. That friendly endeavor, however, is no longer possible under new rules laid down last week. Henceforth, all such FBI requests will be seen and

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screened by the Attorney General. Miss Knight isn't going to like that. In a 1962 interview she was quoted as "having no confidence" in the Justice Department. Responsibility for relaying any requests to embassies will rest henceforth with the State Department's ably run Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Transmitting FBI messages was just one of many activities Miss Knight has engaged in over the years in support of worthy causes. The diversity of her endeavors has been so wide it has been hard to identify her superior. Is it Mr. Hoover, the Republican National Committee (for which she has written some strong pieces), Secretary Rusk, the Administrator of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs or Admiral Rayburn of the Central Intelligence Agency?

In 1963, Miss Knight was instructed to get rid of a private line she maintained to CIA. Perhaps she did. Anyway, the line seems to be in again, with an added touch. The *New York Herald Tribune* reported last week that Miss Knight had ordered a special "scrambler" telephone on which she could communicate directly with the CIA. She is thereby protected from anyone in her Department wishing to tap *her* phone.

to take a somewhat milder line toward Peking. "I hope," she said, "Mr. Humphrey is not too put out by the ravings of madmen hell-bent on world destruction, although I must say the insults are calculated to humiliate him as much as possible, and that he in personifying the alleged new American policy would aim to return for more of the same so that the Chinese Communists could heap more obloquy and more verbal refuse on his head for the world to see. . . . Is it that pampering and mollycoddling of the violent insane will replace therapy and cure, or is it that the symptoms were correctly diagnosed and purposely fuddy-duddied to make the United States look ridiculous . . . ?"

Last week, Madame Chiang was in New York, but was expected to return to Washington soon to resume her informal contacts.