

Author

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Ex-Agent Sues FBI, Director

Former FBI agent-turned-author William Turner filed an \$11 million damage suit yesterday against the bureau, newly installed director William Webster and his three predecessors for alleged harassment and violations of rights.

Turner, who quit the FBI after ten years in 1961, said the bureau had "conspired to prevent him from pursuing his new livelihood as a journalist and author" by wiretapping his telephones and spreading malicious stories about him to editors.

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in San Jose by attorney John Thorne of San Jose.

Also named were nine agents who allegedly helped carry out FBI directives to intimidate editors and harass Turner generally.

Turner, an editor of the defunct Ramparts magazine and author of three books critical of the FBI, said in the suit that the first intimidation occurred in October, 1963, after he submitted an article to Playboy magazine about the FBI and its relations with organized crime.

Two FBI agents visited Playboy associate editor Murray Fisher, Turner claimed, and demanded to know if the magazine planned to publish the article. The suit says the magazine did not.

That December — a month after President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas — Turner said he submitted an article about an alleged breakdown in FBI security there to Saga magazine.

Two agents then visited editor Al Silverman, the suit said, and demanded to read the article. Although the suit does not say whether Silverman complied, the article was published.

In 1967 and 1970, Turner alleged, FBI agents visited radio and television stations where he had planned to promote his books — "Hoover's FBI" and "The Police Establishment" — and attacked him to producers as a Communist sympathizer and "a dedicated enemy of law enforcement."

The FBI was so eager to harass him, Turner said, that it illegally audited his 1966 federal income tax returns the following year. Though he made only \$4736.32 in 1966, he said, he was forced later to pay an additional \$40.

The last dated incident occurred in February, 1975, when Turner claims he was fired from his job as West Coast investigator for the federally mandated National Wiretapping Commission.

Turner said that commission chairman General Kenneth Hodson told him that FBI agent John Harrington, the FBI liaison with the commission, suggested replacing him with some other former FBI agents.

Since then, he said, the FBI has continued to wiretap his telephones, illegally bug his office, and, in general continue to harass him. His suit also asks an injunction against the alleged practices.

Private 3/12/78

Q. I hear that at NBC-TV, Henry Kissinger is referred to as "King Henry." What does he actually do under his five-year, \$1.5 million contract?—V.L., Skokie, Ill.
A. "King Henry" is an NBC adviser-consultant on foreign affairs. He permits NBC newsmen to approach his throne, kneel, kiss his ring, and ask questions on foreign affairs. He does no interviewing himself but is starred in one news special annually. In his first special, telecast on Jan. 13, 1978, he droned on about Eurocommunism, spoke authoritatively but was deadly dull. No doubt NBC will frame him into some other format. Kissinger would be delightful in a situation comedy. He is witty, charming, and a consummate actor.