

FBI Still Probes Vets Against War

By Jack Anderson

The FBI has been badly burned by the revelations that it has been misused by White House aides. Yet believe it or not, the FBI is still doing political chores for the White House.

FBI agents are quietly investigating those "Vietnam Veterans Against the War," who worked in the presidential campaign of Sen. George McGovern. This is part of a desperate search, apparently, for evidence that would somehow justify the bugging and break-ins authorized by the White House during the 1972 campaign.

As we reported May 23, trusted presidential aides are trying to put together evidence that subversives were conspiring in 1972 to defeat President Nixon and to undermine the political system. To assist in this research, the White House apparently has enlisted the FBI.

FBI agent Davis Rarity, for example, has questioned Vietnam veterans who worked in McGovern's Watergate "veteran's affairs" office. His appearance coincided with White House interest in this sort of research. Rarity asked them about any possible subversive activities within the group.

Rarity's Questions

"He asked me if any planning was done out of the Watergate for demonstrations

at the Republican National Convention," one veteran told us. "He also asked a lot about the Socialist Worker's Party—if there were any people associated with them around the office."

Other veterans interviewed by Rarity said he asked them the same questions. He also asked them to identify any "troublemakers" in the organization.

Watergate conspirator James McCord testified last Tuesday that he was concerned about potential violence at the Republican National Convention because he believed several radical organizations were operating within the McGovern campaign. The need to discover the extent of these operations, McCord said, formed the justification for bugging Democratic headquarters at the Watergate.

Many of the scare stories came from Robert Mardian, then the Justice Department's internal security chief, who worked himself into a state of political paranoia. He deluged his superiors with warnings of civil disorders and political disruptions.

Highly Inflated

We have obtained access to some of these hush-hush Justice Department reports and close examination disclosed that Mardian's dire warnings were highly inflated.

The vets have told us that some who were recently ques-

tioned by the FBI had been attached to Army intelligence during their Vietnam duty.

"None of us were very high up in the McGovern operation," a vet told my associate Jack Cloherty. "We mostly stuffed envelopes and organized block parties."

Rarity told those he interviewed his investigation was prompted by a recent American Serviceman's Union demonstration.

The FBI refused to comment.