

# Informant Led Draft Unit Raid

By Laurence Stern  
Washington Post Staff Writer

A New Jersey contractor told the House intelligence committee yesterday how—as an FBI provocateur—he led a group of 30 antiwar activists in a raid on the Camden draft board and ensuing arrests by waiting agents.

Robert Hardy, a husky four-year Marine Corps veteran, said he became an FBI informant in June, 1971, after learning of plans by local war critics to stage a protest at the draft board building.

Hardy said he infiltrated the group of "college professors, clergy and students" on instructions from the FBI after informing the local bureau office of what he had learned. Eventually he took over the leadership of the protest group "to the point that it became absurd," he testified.

Hardy's testimony came in the course of a day of intense congressional inquiry in the House and Senate intelligence committees into investigative excesses of the FBI.

Asked for a rebuttal to Hardy's testimony, assistant FBI director W. Raymond Wannall said he could not comment on the account but that the events the witness described "do not represent the policies of the bureau."

The witness, who said he now deplores his role as an FBI informant, testified he provided the dissenters with ropes, ladders, drills, bits, hammers and moral encouragement. "Mr. Chairman, you could not believe what an inept band of bungling burglars these people were," Hardy told Chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.).

He described them as a "loosely knit group . . . dreamers who talked a lot but did nothing."

Most of the draft board raiders, Hardy said, "couldn't even tie a knot properly. I taught them everything they knew . . . How to cut glass and open windows without

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making any noise . . . How to open file cabinets without a key . . . How to climb ladders, easily and to walk on the edge of the roof without falling."

"My neighbors began to wonder why I had this crowd of people climbing up the side of my house and parading along the edge of my roof every day," Hardy related. "I began to feel like the Pied Piper."

He said he finally convinced the group to break into the draft board building on the morning of Aug. 22, 1971. "The rest is history," Hardy said. "In the early hours of Aug. 22 a group of young people were caught and arrested for breaking into the Camden draft board . . . The FBI, again, had gotten its man."

The committee also heard testimony from a retired FBI agent with 20 years' service, Arthur Murtagh, who said that while assigned to the Atlanta bureau he was asked to obtain handwriting samples of black leader Andrew Young, who was a candidate for Congress.

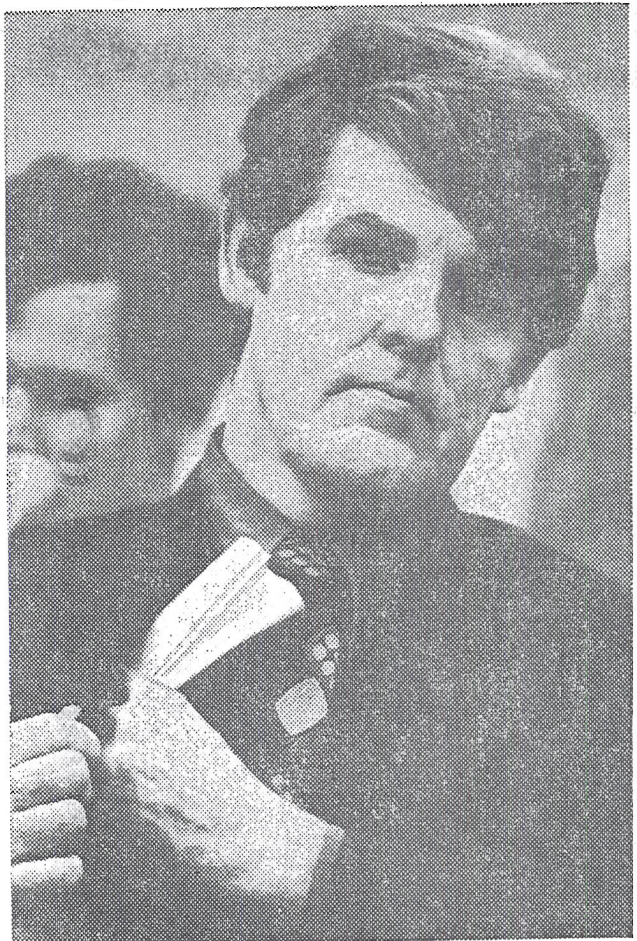
Murtagh said he refused the assignment because "I knew damn well it was going to be

used in an unrecorded counterintelligence operation to destroy Mr. Young's chances of getting elected to the House of Representatives."

The Georgia Democrat was elected in 1972 and re-elected last year.

The former agent, who broke down with emotion several times during his testimony, explained afterward that the purpose was to reproduce the signatures of top leaders in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and then fabricate letters between them designed to sow dissension.

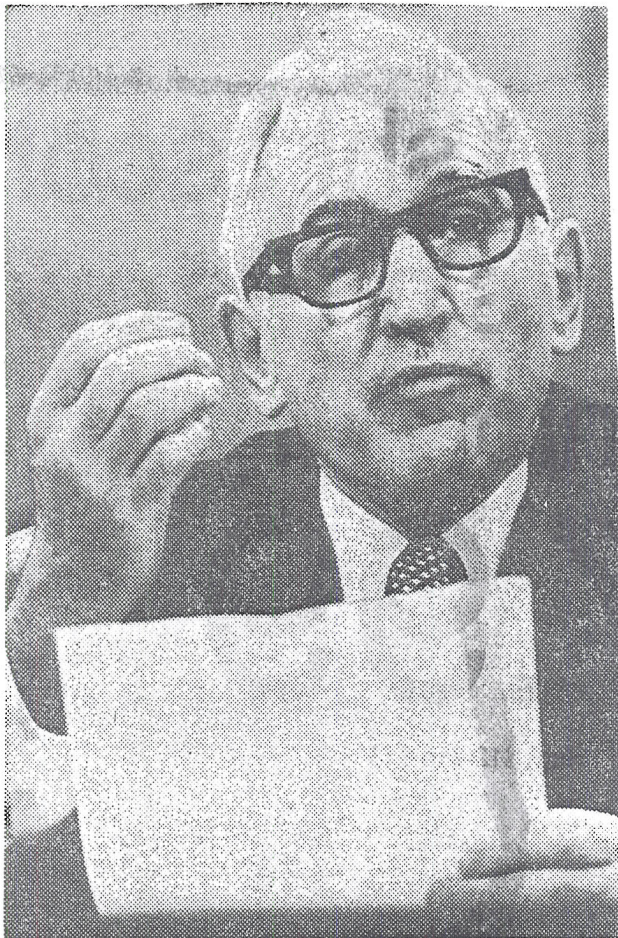
Murtagh was assigned to the bureau's internal security intelligence squad in Atlanta when the Young episode occurred.



Former FBI informant Robert Hardy, left,

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Photos by James K.W. Atherton—The Washington Post

and retired agent Arthur Murtagh, right, testify at House hearing.