

F.B.I. Files Say Informer Got Data for Panther Raid

By JOHN KIFNER

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WASHINGTON, May 6—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has reported in internal memorandums that one of its informers was the sole source of information that led to the 1969 Chicago raid in which Black Panther Fred Hampton was killed.

Sources who have combed through the transcript of testimony before a Federal grand jury that looked into the police raid say, however, that there is nothing in the document about the F.B.I.'s providing information on its role in the raid to the jury.

Jerris Leonard, the former Assistant Attorney General for civil rights, who conducted the inquiry, replied in a telephone interview that the grand jury had been apprised that an F.B.I. informer was involved in the raid.

The raid and the subsequent grand jury investigation came in a period when, according to a report released this week by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, the bureau was engaged in a nationwide effort through the use of informants, fake letters and cooperation with local police intelligence units to sow dissension among the Black Panthers and to stir "gang warfare" between the Panthers and other militants.

Mr. Hampton, the Illinois chairman of the Black Panther Party, and another Panther leader, Mark Clark, were slain in a hail of bullets in a pre-dawn raid on a flat on the West Side of Chicago on Dec. 4, 1969, by the police attached to the office of Edward V. Hanrahan, then Cook County States Attorney.

Raid Was Investigated

The police at the time said that they had been greeted by gunfire and a wild shootout had ensued. But the raid led to recurrent controversy and a series of investigations.

The special Federal grand jury found that the police had fired between 82 and 99 shots, while only one could possibly be attributed to the occupants of the apartment. The inquiry raised the possibility that the police had been "falsifying" their report, but the jury returned no indictments. A subsequent special grand jury investigation returned indictments against Mr. Hanrahan



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Fred Hampton in 1968

and the police raiders, but the charges were dismissed.

New light has been shed on the case by the documents in the Senate committee's report and by documents entered in the Federal District Court in Chicago in a \$47.7 million civil damage suit being conducted by survivors of the raid and by Mr. Hampton's parents.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to these documents, took credit for the information that had led to the raid, saying that the information from its informer, William O'Neal, then the Chicago Panther's chief of security, "was not available for any other source."

Within days of the raid, according to the documents, the Chicago F.B.I. office asked the Washington headquarters for a \$300 bonus for Mr. O'Neal, according to the documents, and subsequently received the money.

The documents are the first disclosure of the extent of the bureau's involvement in the Hampton raid.

According to the documents in the civil damage suit, Mr. O'Neal furnished the F.B.I. "Racial Matters Squad" with a detailed floor plan of the Panther apartment, a list of weapons—legally purchased according to the F.B.I. memorandums—and a list of people who stayed there. The floor plan pointed out the room where Mr. Hampton slept.

The agents, in turn, gave this information to the Chicago police officials who staged the raid, according to the documents.

But the report issued by the

Federal grand jury, which was convened early in 1970 as national controversy over the raid mounted, repeated the account that the police had told in both earlier and later investigations of the raid: The police had got the information from their own sources or informers.

Daniel Groth, the police sergeant, who led the raid, took out a search warrant for the raid, saying that he had word from an informant who had given previously reliable information that there were illegal weapons in the apartment. Richard Jalovec, an Assistant State's attorney, who authorized the raid, said that he also had received independent information about the apartment. The F.B.I. gave its information to both men, according to the court documents.

According to sources who have studied the transcript of the grand jury testimony, which has been released in the course of several investigations, there is no testimony about the bureau's providing the detailed information, including the floor plan.

Jerris Leonard, the former Assistant Attorney General for civil rights, who conducted the grand jury investigation, concluded in a telephone interview: "The grand jury was apprised of the fact that the informant was an F.B.I. informant. Was that known to the grand jury? The answer is yes."

'They're Lying'

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"You tell the people there is testimony," said Mr. Leonard, who is now in private practice. "They're lying," he said of those who say there was no such testimony.

At the time he was conducting the grand jury investigation, Mr. Leonard was the chief of staff for the Justice Department's civil disturbance group. According to the Rockefeller Commission Report on domestic intelligence operations, the group was "instructed to coordinate intelligence, policy and action within the Department of Justice concerning domestic civil disturbances."

"The Rockefeller Commission is the shoddiest, sloppiest job of investigation that I have ever seen," Mr. Leonard said.

"That statement is a complete falsehood."

Mr. Leonard said the job of the civil disturbance group was to send teams to possibly troubled cities as the "eyes and ears" of the President in the event that Federal troops might be needed or be requested by the local authorities.