

Jack Anderson Aide Charged With Having Stolen Documents

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 — A reporter employed by Jack Anderson, the syndicated columnist, was arrested by Federal agents today on charges of receiving and possessing documents stolen by a group of militant Indians during a six-day occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs building here last November.

A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation said that agents had seized the reporter, Leslie H. Whitten Jr., outside an apartment in Northwest Washington occupied by Hank Adams, a Sioux Indian who was one of the leaders of the Trail of Broken Treaties organization that planned the occupation.

The spokesman said that Mr. Adams and two others, Daniel Pigeon, 21, years old, and Allison Cerri, of Silver Springs, Md., were arrested on the same charge after a search of the apartment, in which some of the allegedly stolen documents were recovered.

Mr. Anderson said in a statement released after the arrests that Mr. Whitten had been "handcuffed and fingerprinted and thrown in jail, in outrageous violation of the First Amendment, for doing his job as a reporter."

To Examine Papers

He said that Mr. Whitten, 44 years old, was meeting Mr. Adams and the others by pre-arrangement to examine the documents. Mr. Anderson has written a number of articles in recent months based on information culled from the stolen papers, which he said were "scattered in secret stashes across the United States and Canada." In at least one story, Mr. Whitten was named as having obtained the information.

Mr. Anderson today, however, said that neither he nor Mr. Whitten had actually taken possession of any of the stolen materials, and added that "we did not ask the Indians to steal them."

"We're in the newspaper business," he said, "and when the Indians steal files from the Government and claim that these files show that they've been cheated, then that's a story."

At an arraignment before a United States magistrate this



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Leslie H. Whitten Jr.

evening, Mr. Whitten and Mr. Adams were both charged with receiving, concealing and retaining stolen Government property valued at more than \$100. The maximum penalty for such an offense, a felony, is a fine of \$10,000 and 10 years in prison.

The two men were released on their personal recognizance. Charges against Miss Cerri and Pigeon were dropped.

A fifth person arrested later at another location, Anita Collins, 28 years old, was not formally charged pending the assignment to her of a court-appointed lawyer. Her connection with the case was not known, beyond the fact that she shares a house here with LaNada Boyer, 26, a Shoshone-Bannock Indian who was in the B.I.A. building during the takeover.

Last week, a Federal grand jury in Kansas City, Kan., indicted two other Indians, Joyce Guerro, 27, and Michael R. Ball, 19, for possession of office machines, books and paintings allegedly stolen from the Bureau of Indian Affairs headquarters.

A group of about 500 Indians took over the four-story building last Nov. 2, vowing to stay until the Nixon Administration met a list of demands, including the restoration of Indian lands and the removal of some B.I.A. officials.

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