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THE U.S. PROTECTS UNDERCOVER MEN

F.B.I. Informers Are Given Rewards and Guards

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Whatever inducements may have been offered to Gary Thomas Rowe to be an undercover man in the Ku Klux Klan for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it can be taken for granted that he will not be left to fend for himself on the hostile streets of Selma, Ala.

The F.B.I. and the Justice Department are wary about discussing the role of undercover agents—how they are recruited, how they operate, how they are rewarded.

But it is known that when the identity of one is exposed by an appearance in court or before a grand jury, as happened to Mr. Rowe in the case of the men indicted in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, the Government has a way of taking care of them.

Buried out of sight in each annual budget of the Department of Justice is a confidential fund of a few thousand dollars available to the attorney general with which to shield such persons from the revenge of their enemies.

More often than not this takes the form of quietly moving them and their families to a distant locality, setting them up in a job or business, possibly giving them a "new identity" with a change of name and background.

Protection For Years

In extreme cases, the Government will provide physical protection for them through the local police or United States marshals for a number of years until the dangers of discovery and reprisal have passed.

It is known that in one instance, a few years ago, an undercover agent whose testimony helped to send a number of important racketeers to prison, was moved with his family to a new job and a new life in a Central-American republic.

The term "undercover agent"



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PROTECTION PROVIDED: Gary Thomas Rowe, undercover man for the F.B.I. in Selma, Ala., slaying.

sometimes means a trained F.B.I. man, who, in the manner of James Bond and similar heroes of the world of the "whodunit," assumes a disguise

and penetrates some dark corner of the underworld.

But more frequently the term applies to men and women who are not in the F.B.I., but who for a variety of reasons are willing—or are persuaded—to act as secret informers for the Government.

The Communist party in the United States, for example, has been so thoroughly infiltrated in this manner that Fred J. Cook, an author, estimates that the Government pays more dues into the party treasury than do its bona fide members.

Expenses and Upkeep

In most cases, undercover agents in the Communist party and in other areas of national security are not given monetary rewards beyond their expenses and upkeep. These informants usually run whatever risks are involved from ideological or patriotic motives or for the excitement involved.

In many criminal cases, however, the F.B.I. is ready to pay for inside information on a cash-on-delivery basis. J. Edgar Hoover, the F.B.I. director, has a confidential fund of his own for this purpose, and individual payments of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 are said to have been made for valuable tips and leads.

A sine qua non of any such arrangement is that the identity

of the informant be kept secret. If, however, the testimony of such an informant is essential to convict a higher-up in a criminal prosecution, the Government will urge, but not force him to come into the open. If he agrees, he can usually count on the Government to save him from harm thereafter.

Sometimes when neither money nor idealism is enough to persuade an insider to tell what he knows about a criminal operation, a more direct form of pressure may be applied by the Government.

The man may be told that a time may come when he might need a recommendation for leniency for his involvement in some future indiscretion.