

# Why Linda Janca

One day last week, Linda Janca, a 21-year-old FBI file clerk, and two co-workers say they were given an ultimatum: Either give up their off-duty volunteer work for a peace group or resign. Miss Janca elected to quit. Today, she is an unlikely protagonist in the controversy buffeting the FBI and its 76-year-old chief, J. Edgar Hoover. Perhaps equally unintentionally, she has also become a protest symbol for the peace movement.

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## Washington

LINDA JANCA was a shy, quiet loner who "stood out like a sore thumb" among her classmates in her hometown of Biloxi, Miss.



J. EDGAR HOOVER  
"All by himself"

## She Wrote 'Peace' As Her Reason For Leaving

There, three years ago, she attended a senior class assembly and listened to a recruiter for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Today, she can't recall exactly what the man said, but she remembers, "I thought it would be perfect."

That summer of 1968, Linda and her parents decided she should come to Washington and the FBI. She was leaving behind six younger brothers and a younger sister, a father who worked in the shipbuilding business and a mother she loved.



PRESIDENT NIXON  
"A simple, Quaker man"

At St. Martin High School, a public county school with about 70 in the senior class, Linda had had few friends.

Her differences set her apart. She didn't date much and she read a lot, perhaps from loneliness.

In July Linda took the train by herself, bringing one suitcase of clothes, one box of cosmetics and one bagful of books. She stayed two nights in a tourist home. Although no one met her when she arrived, the FBI had arranged for the tourist home.

At the FBI, Linda found she was "just a piece of a lot of machinery." Her GS 2 job in the FBI identification division was matching finger prints to index cards.

Her short flipped-up hairdo was changed for a long, straight one, parted in the middle, tucked behind at the sides by horn-rimmed glasses.

Linda spent her time off buying books and records. Her reading became increasingly New Left and antiwar: Dave Dellinger's "Non-Violent Revolution," and Eldridge Cleaver's "Soul on Ice."

She became intrigued with the occult and communes

Always for the underdog. Linda had sympathized with blacks but had not been active in any integration moves in Biloxi.

In 1970, she joined the American Civil Liberties Union. "I don't actually remember when. I was just so astounded at what happens to certain people for speaking out . . . people losing their jobs for their opinions, discrimination in jobs, racial prejudice."

She and a friend went to a Quaker home to see if "there was anything we could do to help Father Daniel Berrigan, but no one was there and we left. Then we began to think, 'what would the Bureau think if they found out?'"

But she didn't stop wearing her peace necklaces to the office — she has five — nor take the wooden statue of the peace sign from her desk. She brought flowers to work. Linda felt nothing she ever did was "subversive" and is still mystified that she couldn't mix peace work with the FBI.

At a Catholic University peace meeting, Linda met a friend who asked if she'd like to go to the National Peace Action Coalition headquarters and stuff envelopes for the April 24th rally. She and two friends started going two and three nights a week.

Then, last Wednesday, Linda said she was called in by a J. Allison Conley, an official of the FBI's identification division, and

# Took on the FBI



FBI WORKER LINDA JANCA  
"Just a piece of machinery"

questioned about her anti-war activities.

"He was kind of cold. I couldn't feel any vibrations or anything. I just kept saying war was wrong." In answer to one question about the Chicago Seven investigation and conviction, Linda said she used the words "frame-up."

Mr. Conley leaped on that, Linda said, and kept going back to it. Linda said she was told that if she got involved in any violence

"administrative action could be taken against me."

When she walked out she started to cry. "I was scared, and I was hurt, and I was angry."

Two days later, on Friday, Linda said she was called in again. "I was told I could either give up my peace work or give up the Bureau. I asked if I had time to think about it and they said no.

"I asked why I couldn't

go back to NPAC and they said something about being my employer and not having to give a reason. I probably should have argued, but I didn't question." She was handed a letter of resignation, Linda said. Where it said 'reason for leaving', Linda wrote "Peace."

Since then, Linda and co-worker Christine Hoomes have been taken over by NPAC, who held a press conference for them and set up interviews, but made sure they were monitored. Lawyer Phil Hirschkop said the ACLU plans to "charge Hoover with interfering with their Constitutional rights" and to seek their reinstatement.

Linda will work at NPAC until the rally and in May will take a Civil Service test to try to become a junior federal assistant service officer. She still wants to work within the government to try to "make changes."

Of J. Edgar Hoover, Linda says, "right now I just try to think of him as a man who is just all by himself. He must have gone through a lot in these last days." She was referring to demands from several Democrats in Congress that he resign.

And President Nixon: "Gosh. What do I think about Nixon? I guess he's just a simple, Quaker man who is just in a bad position . . . I guess maybe the revolution hasn't happened to him yet."