

F.B.I. Said to Encourage Use of Scouts as Informers

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PHILADELPHIA, May 17—Documents said to be among those stolen from the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that the agency encourages local police departments to recruit Boy Scouts as informers.

Six documents evidently used by bureau police instructors were made available today by National Action-Research on the Military-Industrial Complex (NARMIC), a program of the American Friends Service Committee here.

The committee said the six documents, plus 24 others, were received by NARMIC recently from the anonymous Citizens Commission to Investigate the F.B.I., the group that perpetrated the theft of some 800 documents in nearby Media, Pa., on March 8.

Like sets released earlier, the documents deal with surveillance of noncriminals.

'Operation Safe'

One document discusses "Operation Safe," the latter word an acronym for Scout Awareness for Emergency, at Rochester.

Scouts are given identification cards with police, F.B.I. and other emergency numbers on the reverse side, according to the document, and are asked to watch for and report on unusual activity or lack of activity in neighbors' homes, plus numerous other things, including criminal acts and "suspicious acts—persons loitering . . . around schools, neighborhoods and parks."

The program, the document says, provides 20,000 "extra eyes and ears for the police department."

A document called "Current Concepts in Police Community Relations" promotes "pre-prevention" of "pre-offenders." It urges policemen to gain the confidence of children at schools and in summer programs, along lines employed at Pontiac, Mich., to "exert a positive influence upon the individual's values and attitudes."

"A pre-offender," a NARMIC spokesman interpreted, "is a kid who hasn't done anything illegal. Yet But if the police leave him alone, the argument goes, odds are he may very well do something illegal. Consequently, pre-prevention by police is prescribed."

A document labeled "police instructor's bulletin" notes that there are four types of gases "available for law enforcement

through the Federal Laboratories." Besides tear gas, they are "sickening gas, smoke and military gas."

"Some individuals," the document says, "especially those who are mentally unbalanced or perhaps masochists, can take large quantities of CN [tear gas] and the police department may decide to resort to DM [sickening gas]."

The manual explains, "Some of the results from exposure to DM are severe sore throat, restricting chest pains resembling a massive coronary, and uncontrolled vomiting and defecation. There is no first aid for DM. One deep breath of this gas can give 20 minutes of agony. The gas is usually not fatal."

Military gas is described as "particularly vicious," a weapon that produces temporary blindness and has "an I-don't-care effect on a lot of people."

A "riot control information bulletin" dated 1967 notes that "officers in Philadelphia have orders to shoot anyone who either fires at police or throws missiles of any type."

The two other documents describe a military system of controlling riots and use of a police "civil rights unit" in Baltimore that NARMIC says amounts to "political surveillance and disguised intelligence gathering" in the black community.

Of the 30 documents reportedly received from the Citizens Commission, NARMIC is incorporating several in a booklet, "Police on the Homefront."

A Raid Reported

One of the authors, Anne H. Flitcraft, said in an interview that a dozen armed F.B.I. agents broke down the door to her apartment last night in the Powelton neighborhood of Philadelphia and seized her Xeroxed copies of the documents, her typewriter, notes for other articles and some of her books, after displaying a warrant permitting a search for documents stolen in Media.

Miss Flitcraft, a 22-year-old part-time student at the University of Pennsylvania said more than 30 agents had been watching the Powelton section, a center of communes and anti-war activity, for several weeks.

Powelton residents demonstrated at the Philadelphia F.B.I. headquarters Friday, demanding that the agency end "political harassment" of their neighborhood.

Role of Rochester Scouts

By HOMER BIGART

Are Boy scouts being used as "informers" by the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

Well, certainly not in a snooping sense, said a statement yesterday from national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America, New Brunswick, N. J.

The statement denied that 20,000 Boy Scouts in Rochester had ever been recruited as "extra eyes and ears" of the police, as reported in a document said to have been stolen from the F.B.I.

All the Rochester Scouts were

asked to do was report to police agencies suspicious acts or incidents that endangered life or property, exercising the same surveillance that is the duty of any citizen, Scout officials said.

Reports of the alleged F.B.I. document inspired visions of Cub patrols spying on "suspicious" persons, eavesdropping on conversations and keeping a wary eye on strangers instead of following the more Scoutly pursuits of tying knots and studying Indian lore.

The document, which a group called the Citizens Commission

as 'Informers' Is Belittled

to Investigate the F.B.I. says it stole from the Media, Pa., office of the Federal agency, praised the Rochester experiment as a "positive program" to reduce crime.

But the national Scout officials said the Rochester program amounted to nothing more than the distribution of a pamphlet at a 1969 Scout rally suggesting that Scouts keep alert for about 60 signs of trouble. There was no "follow-up," and no organization of a para-police agency among the Scouts, the officials said.

In Rochester yesterday, Gene Cruse, the local Scout executive, said the pamphlet had been prepared by the Rochester Emergency Services Committee, which included the local and state police, the Fire Department, the sheriff's office, the Coast Guard, the F.B.I., the Poison Control Center and Civil Defense.

Mr. Cruse said the Scouts had been asked to report such

things as faulty traffic signs, blown-out street lights, fires, youngsters playing with matches, trees blown down, flooded viaducts, suspicious strangers in neighbors' homes and suspicious strangers loitering about schools.

Asked if the Scouts were required to "snoop," he said: "Hell, no, they would report to police only as participating citizens."

In New Brunswick, Alden G. Barber, chief executive of the Boy Scouts of America, explained:

"With our emphasis on citizenship and character building, the B.S.A. does help boys be prepared for emergencies. This includes having a boy know where he can go or call to get help for emergencies like fires, traffic accidents, break-ins or vandalism which endanger the lives and property of parents and friends. We consider this an important job for any citizen."