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The F.B.I. on Trial

An informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in last year's raid on draft board files in Camden, N. J., has accused the F.B.I. of complicity in that criminal act. His charges implicate high-ranking officials in planning, financing and equipping the illegal and potentially dangerous raid.

The informer, Robert W. Hardy, maintains that the alleged antiwar conspirators would have been incapable of carrying out the raid without his help and instruction. Indeed, he says they seemed to have abandoned the project before he rekindled interest in it. According to this former F.B.I. collaborator, the bureau encouraged him in planning the raid because high authorities "wanted it actually to happen."

The charges are too serious to remain unanswered. Instigating revolutionary acts as a means of entrapping dissidents and possibly whipping up popular anger against them is a standard tactic of totalitarian states seeking to justify repressive policies. It has no place in the law-enforcement arsenal of a democratic society.