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An FBI Apology

IN A LITTLE-NOTED but comforting display of propriety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has apologized and paid over \$1000 to a former student of the University of Oregon whose personal files an agent had made available for publication.

The student, Ronald Eachus, an outspoken critic of the Vietnam war, filed suit for damages after the student newspaper published parts of the FBI file. Investigation disclosed that an FBI agent had given the file to the news director of a radio station, who in turn gave it to the campus paper.

In settling the case out of court, Clarence M. Kelley, director of the FBI, informed Eachus that the offending agent had been reprimanded and suspended, and added: "FBI policy does not condone or tolerate the divulgence of any information from its files to unauthorized persons."

BY WORD AND BY ACT the new director of the FBI has thus implicitly reassured a nervous public. The incident itself gains interest through the circumstance that Eachus will use two-thirds of the award as a donation to a fund that provides medical aid for victims of the Vietnamese war — in the name of the FBI.