

FBI Can Monitor Young Socialists

New York

The FBI got permission yesterday to keep an eye on the young Socialist Alliance convention, which opens in St. Louis December 28.

The U.S. Court of Appeals overruled a week-old ban on surveillance or "confidential informant" monitoring of the sessions, saying the FBI only planned to what it normally does.

"The FBI has a right, indeed a duty, to keep itself informed with respect to the possible commission of crimes," the appeals court said. "It is not obliged to wear blinders until it may be too late for prevention."

Attorneys for the Young Socialist group said they would appeal yesterday's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court before the convention opens.

The appeals court said the ban issued December 16 by U.S. District Judge Thomas P. Griesa was "an abuse of discretion." But the appeals court ordered the FBI not to

send attendance lists to the Civil Service Commission, which in the past had used such rosters to question government workers or jobseekers.

Herbert Jordan, lawyer for the alliance, said it feared the FBI would compile lists of those attending that might jeopardize their chances of future employment.

He argued that the group was entitled to bar "hostile government agents or FBI agents masquerading as socialists."

In his earlier decision, Griesa held that FBI activity at the convention in the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis would "inhibit the right of association." He found that the U.S. government had not proved "violent revolutionary activity or any other illegal activity."

Griesa's December 16 injunction barred the FBI from "attending, surveilling, listening to, watching or otherwise monitoring" the convention.

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