

A Report of FBI Operations Abroad

(This is a NYT story, not in file - possibly carried in NYT 16 Feb, a Sunday.)

Story involves Joseph Burton. Subsequent clippings will also be filed Infiltrators, Provocateurs.

See story, same file, "Ex-Operative [Burton] Says He Worked for F.B.I. To Disrupt Political Activities Up to '74," by John M. Crewdson. Story deals with FBI techniques. Crewdson says activities carried out by Burton for the FBI "appear similar to several of the categories of 'dirty tricks' that characterized the Counterintelligence Program, or Cointelpro, effort." FBI spokesman says Cointelpro was not continued "beyond April, 1971;" Burton says his efforts continued up to the time he left the FBI, July 1974.

Ex-Undercover Operative

SFChronicle
14 FEB 75

FBI 'Didn't Halt' Dirty Tricks

Much longer story, NYTimes, filed Infiltrators/Provocateurs.

Washington - NYTIMES

Despite assurances by the Justice Department that the Federal Bureau of Investigation's controversial counterintelligence program was halted in April, 1971, a former undercover operative says that the bureau continued as late as last June to employ similar techniques against domestic political groups.

The former operative, Joseph A. Burton, told the New York Times in a series of recent interviews of activities he carried out for the FBI that appear similar to several of the categories of "dirty tricks" that characterized the counterintelligence program, or Cointelpro, effort.

Burton's account included examples of bogus documents, informants and sham "revolutionary" front groups used to disrupt a variety of political activities in this country.

He also told of "infiltrating" labor unions and, with other FBI undercover operatives, of reporting to the FBI on the page 2 3/4 Republican National Convention at Miami Beach in 1972, and of encouraging and assisting demonstrations against the Nixon administration over the Watergate scandals.

Yesterday an FBI spokesman termed many of Burton's allegations "distorted or false."

Search for the 500-Pound Tub

San Diego

Police are looking for Madame Katherine Tingley's bathtub.

Madame Tingley, founder of the Theosophical Society in 1897, died on a trip to Europe in 1929. She was heralded at the time as one of the "six Californians whose name is instantly recognized throughout the world."

But her 500-pound, cast-iron bathtub stayed around in anonymity, until some-

body stole it from the backyard of the pioneer Dixon home on land formerly owned by the Theosophical Society.

Society members study all the world's philosophies in what they call a ceaseless search for truth.

"The search for Mme. Tingley's bathtub has been assigned to Detective Joe Armstrong, who said he hasn't even found a ring.

Associated Press

The spokesman reiterated that the bureau's Cointelpro effort had not continued beyond April, 1971, and maintained that the FBI had not instructed Burton to join or report on any labor unions and had no knowledge of his involvement in any "violent" demonstrations during the Miami convention.

Cointelpro's operation is expected to be investigated by select committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Cointelpro was described

in a report by the Justice Department last November as a 17-year attempt to disrupt, expose or neutralize such organizations as the communist party and the Ku Klux Klan.

Burton, who lives in Tampa, Fla., said that he and other undercover intelligence agent operated bogus "Communist" organizations, set up with the assistance of the FBI to help them gain a foothold with radicals in their communities and around the country.

For more than two years,

Burton headed the "Red Star Cadre," ostensibly a pro-Communist Chinese organization that he said he formed in May, 1972 "At the direction of the bureau," and directed until he left the bureau's employ in July, 1974.

Burton, a 42-year-old auctioneer and antique dealer, said he became involved with the FBI after he was invited by a co-worker at a Tampa janitorial service to join the Communist party.

Burton said he advised the FBI's Tampa field office of the invitation and was visited the next day by two agents, who persuaded him to adopt a revolutionary guise and to try to infiltrate radical groups in the Tampa area. He said he was later asked to infiltrate groups in the United States and Canada.

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