

Socialist Workers To Remain Subject To F.B.I. Scrutiny

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 15—

The Federal Bureau of Investigation intends to continue its investigation of the Socialist Workers Party under classified Justice Department guidelines that apply to radical organizations with foreign political connections, according to well-placed department sources.

The sources said that the F.B.I. recently submitted to Attorney General Edward H. Levi a statement of its intention to treat its 38-year-long investigation of the party as a counterintelligence case rather than a domestic security investigation.

The matter thus would remain in the hands of the F.B.I.'s intelligence division and would not, like investigations of other domestic radical groups, be

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F.B.I. TO CONTINUE SCRUTINY OF PARTY

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shifted to the bureau's general investigative division under terms of a reorganization announced last week by the bureau's director, Clarence M. Kelley.

Mr. Kelley said at a news conference on Wednesday that groups for which the general investigative division had been given responsibility would be treated, under a separate set of Justice Department guidelines, like all other criminal cases in that division.

The division has traditionally had authority over offenses ranging from bank robberies to violations of the Migratory Bird Act.

Under Mr. Levi's published guidelines for "domestic security investigations," groups without demonstrable foreign connections would be investigated by the division only if they were engaged in, or were about to engage in, violations of Federal law.

Bureau sources said that although precisely which groups would be subject to the jurisdictional transfer had not yet been decided, such organizations as the Black Panther Party and the Ku Klux Klan, which have been subjected to continuing scrutiny by the intelligence division, would probably be among those shifted.

But the Justice Department

sources said that the case or the Socialist Workers Party would be retained, with the bureau's decade-old investigation of the Communist Party and a few others, within the intelligence division, where it would be subject to a different set of investigative guidelines that govern counterintelligence inquiries.

Foreign Ties

Those guidelines have been kept secret. But they are understood to allow for continuing scrutiny of groups whose foreign affiliations are believed to threaten the national security, whether or not there is evidence of any impending violation of Federal law.

Had the Socialist Workers case been among those transferred from the intelligence division, the party could not have been investigated in the absence of evidence that it was preparing to overthrow or interfere with the functioning of the Federal government or a foreign government, impair interstate commerce or deprive persons of their civil rights.

The F.B.I.'s rationale to accord the Socialist Workers Party the same status as, for example, the foreign-directed Palestinian Liberation Organization comes despite testimony in recent months from past and present bureau officials that the party has never advocated or engaged in any violent or illegal activity.

According to one Justice Department source, the bureau cited as a basis for its decision the party's connections with the Fourth International, a worldwide Trotskyite group from which the party withdrew its membership in 1940.

Party officials have testified before Congress and in connection with the party's lawsuit against the F.B.I. that the group resigned from the Fourth International after passage of the Voorhis Act, which placed penalties on domestic organizations that had such international affiliations.

Sends 'Observers'

The party has continued, however, to send delegations of "observers" to world congresses of Trotskyite groups that comprise the Fourth International. Its officers have insisted that although the group is internationalist in character, it is not "run by a foreign power or organization," as Peter Camejo, its current presidential candidate, told the House intelligence committee last year.

According to a report of the Senate intelligence committee, C. D. Brennan, a former head of the F.B.I. intelligence division, used the term "home-grown tomatoes" to describe the party's domestic character.

W.C. Sullivan, Mr. Brennan's predecessor, said in a deposition given recently to party lawyers that he had no personal knowledge of any violent or unlawful activities engaged in by party members.

The senate report noted that although the F.B.I. maintained

that the Communist Party had, at one time, been "blatantly" involved in espionage within the United States, the committee's investigators had seen no evidence of similar activity by the Socialist Workers.

No Criminal Steps

The report also cited testimony of Robert Shackelford, an F.B.I. official with overall responsibility for the party investigation, in reporting that "the bureau has conceded that the S.W.P. has never been engaged in organizational violence, nor has it taken any criminal steps toward overthrowing the country."

"Nor does the bureau claim the S.W.P. was engaged in revolutionary acts," the report continued. "The party was targeted for its rhetoric," and because the F.B.I. believed that, according to a bureau document, the public should be apprised that "the S.W.P. is not just another Socialist group but follows the revolutionary principles of Marx, Lenin, and Engels as interpreted by Leon Trotsky."

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