



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Washington, D.C.
February 2, 1971

The Honorable George McGovern
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator McGovern:

I am writing this letter for myself and on behalf of nine associates. We are all Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We ask you to excuse the fact that it is unsigned. We are not accustomed to acting in this manner but in view of the treatment recently afforded former Special Agent Shaw of the New York Office we hope that you will understand and afford some consideration to this letter.

First page of letter sent to Senator McGovern by 10 FBI agents

—AP Photo

McGovern's 'New Proof'

Probe of Hoover Sought

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) says he has new proof of the need for a congressional investigation of FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover.

It is in the form of an anonymous letter purportedly from 10 FBI agents charging the agency is slipping as a crime fighter because too much time is spent on polishing Hoover's public image.

FBI Stationery

"We write . . . because we believe that the FBI could be a vital force within our system of government for good if allowed to do the job that needs doing," said the letter, on FBI stationery. "If we could for only a few moments forget about the director's image and the preservation thereof. At the present that is all we exist for."

McGovern called for an investigation in releasing the contents of the letter in a speech on Senate floor today.

An FBI spokesman said there would be no comment "on an anonymous letter, the authenticity of which has not been established."

McGovern took on the FBI director a few weeks ago over Hoover's treatment of former FBI Agent John Shaw.

Shaw, attending a course at the John Jay College of Law in New York City, wrote a letter to his professor defending Hoover against the professor's criticism of the FBI but conceding that some of his criticisms were valid.

He had the letter typed at an FBI office and when a copy fell into Hoover's hands, Shaw was ordered transferred to Montana. When Shaw rejected the transfer, Hoover accepted his resignation "with prejudice" — meaning he could not get another job with the federal government.

The unsigned letter to McGovern, dated Feb. 2 and purportedly written in Wash-

ington, said the treatment given Shaw "is not so unusual."

Entire Attitude

"It is indicative of an entire attitude and method of operation employed by FBI headquarters," the letter said. "There are many, many others who suffered similar fates of varying degrees . . ."

The anonymous letter charges that Hoover, to enhance his reputation as a crime fighter, has had FBI conviction statistics padded. It also alleged that Hoover has concentrated on arrests among minority group members for insignificant crimes to produce "record numbers of convictions."

CRITICISM OF HOOVER BY AGENTS ALLEGED

NYTimes

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (UPI) — Senator George S. McGovern made public today an anonymous letter on Federal Bureau of Investigation stationery and purportedly from 10 F.B.I. agents charging that the agency had lost effectiveness because its agents must spend so much time polishing the image of J. Edgar Hoover.

The letter charges that Mr. Hoover, to enhance his reputation as a crime fighter, has had F.B.I. conviction statistics padded and has concentrated on chalking up arrests among minority group members for crimes too insignificant to attract the attention of local police departments. The letter said:

"We write because we believe that the F.B.I. could be a vital force within our system of government for good if allowed to do the job that needs doing, if we could for only a few moments forget about the director's image and the preservation thereof. At the present that is all we exist for."

Mr. McGovern, South Dakota Democrat who is an announced candidate for President, said the letter offered further proof that a Congressional investigation of Mr. Hoover's methods are called for. Mr. McGovern made his comments in a statement that he said he would deliver on the Senate floor tomorrow.

The authors of the unsigned letter, Mr. McGovern said, told him he could make whatever use of it he wanted but urged him to keep the original so it could not be traced.

An F.B.I. spokesman said the agency could not comment "on an anonymous letter, the authenticity of which has not been established."