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Files on Politicians Kept, Police Admit

By Donald P. Baker

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Assistant Chief Theodore R. Zanders confirmed yesterday that the D.C. police kept files on certain Washington political figures, but he said they did not contain allegations of drug use or information on sexual habits.

Zanders said files were kept on City Councilmen Marion Barry Jr. and Julius Hobson Sr. and D.C. Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy, as The Washington Post has reported this morning, but that these files contained nothing of a personal nature on the men.

Undercover agents in the D.C. police intelligence division, Zanders said, "would come back from a rally and put into the files those things that they saw." These files have since been shredded, Zanders said.

A well-informed source had told The Post that the agents of a special 33-officer unit of the intelligence division maintained files on antiwar leaders and citizen activists. The source said the agents had sought, among other information, details of



MAURICE CULLINANE
... "to my knowledge"

the sexual habits, possible drug use and credit ratings of persons on whom files were kept.

Zanders said yesterday, however, that the information kept in the files "didn't include any of the allegations" of drug use or sexual

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habits. When asked if agents tried to gather such information, Zanders said, "I have no knowledge of any of that.

"But, yes, we kept files on those people," the assistant chief added.

Earlier yesterday, in response to questioning by Councilman Barry at a City Council session, D.C. Police Chief Maurice Cullinane said, "to my knowledge, we have never had any files on the personal lives of individuals."

Zanders explained later that Cullinane's answer did not mean that no files whatsoever had been kept, but rather that the files did not contain personal information like that mentioned by The Post's source. The question of just what the files contained "hinges on terminology," Zanders said.

To his knowledge, Zanders added, the files "contained information gathered at public rallies and copies of newspaper articles."

At yesterday's City Council hearing, called to discuss the police department's supplemental budget requests, Chief Cullinane did acknowledge that some intelligence files kept during antiwar protest years had been run through the shredder "in response to housekeeping" rather than in an effort to conceal illegal spying activities by the police.

"We've never had any, and we don't intend to keep any" personal files, he repeated to the Council members.

Councilman Hobson said he was not surprised about the reports that files had been kept. "It's a dirty thing," Hobson said. Hobson said that if he is not convinced that the practice has been stopped, he will introduce legislation "to put a stop to it," and if that does not work, he will "try to have the department's funds cut."

Del. Fauntroy also said he was not "entirely surprised" by the reports.

"I believe that such practices are basically contrary to the principles of a free, democratic society," Fauntroy said. "Also, it is a waste of

the taxpayers money to assign investigators to carry out surveillance of law abiding citizens."

Fauntroy said he hoped the city government will join the U.S. Congress in investigating intelligence agencies in an effort to "determine the extent of such abuses of power and whether such abuses are continuing."

As District leaders responded angrily to the report of alleged police spying on civilians, there were other related developments in the area jurisdictions. In Fairfax County, police chief and county executive issued a report yesterday saying they were under "pressure to cooperate" when Fairfax police issued 10 sets of police credentials to the Central Intelligence Agency in April, 1972.

Police officials contacted by The Post in other jurisdictions in the Washington metropolitan area said they have had no dealings with the CIA and that their departments have not conducted surveillance of non-criminal suspects. All of the officials contacted added that they viewed such activities by police as improper.

In Baltimore, where reports of police spying on civilians were first published last month, the latest published charge yesterday is that members of the police department's inspectional services division infiltrated meetings last year called by citizens who were protesting proposed increases in gas and electric rates.

The report issued yesterday in Fairfax by County Police Chief Richard A. King and County Executive Robert W. Wilson included the new revelation that the CIA once lent to the Fairfax police an employee who spoke Arabic. The agent was given a county police badge, identification card and gun, the report said. He was used to investigate a homicide in which "most of the persons to be interviewed did not speak or understand English," the report said.

The seven-page report, confirmed by a CIA spokesman, said credentials, badges and identification cards were issued for nine privates and one police sergeant. Existence of the credentials for CIA use was disclosed in weekend news accounts.

The CIA spokesman said the credentials were "intended for use in an investigation of unauthorized disclosure of classified information," but were never used, and were returned a year later. The target of the investigation was not disclosed.

Prince George's County Police Chief Roland Sweitzer said yesterday that he has "absolutely no knowledge" that his department has ever issued credentials or otherwise cooperated with the CIA.

Sweitzer also said his police have never conducted a surveillance for the federal agency and have never been asked to.

"We haven't sent anyone to the CIA surveillance school either," Sweitzer said. The school, used to train local police officers in spy techniques, reportedly is located in Prince George's County, at the Federal Center in Suitland.

Although the CIA has refused a request from Rep. Edward I. Koch (D-N.Y.) to disclose the identities of all of the local police departments it has helped train, it has named Fairfax and

Montgomery counties and the District, in this area, and New York City and Boston, as participating in the program.

Montgomery County Police Chief Kenneth W. Watkins said in an interview recently that his department has sent several officers to an intelligence-surveillance school "operated by a private company in Florida."

Watkins could not be reached yesterday for comment on the report that Montgomery police also had been trained by CIA agents.

In the earlier interview, Watkins said, "We have never conducted surveillance on public officials or politicians just for the sake of keeping tabs on them."

He added: "We have from time to time surveilled persons with criminal histories whose names have come up in an investigation. The intensity of the investigation depended on the nature of the information, but whatever, it was very limited."

A well-informed source said, however, that Montgomery police recruits are given the names of some of the county's resident activists. The source said one of those whose name is given to recruits is J. Brinton Dillingham, who was an unsuccessful candidate for sheriff in 1970 and is a leading anti-war activist.

Dillingham said he has been arrested about eight times by Montgomery police during various demonstrations in recent years.

Asked specifically whether Dillingham's name is mentioned to new officers, Chief Watkins said, "We have no list or identifications of people to be aware of, to look out for."

As with the other area chiefs interviewed, Watkins said intelligence gathering activities in Montgomery is "mostly involved with gambling, vice and drugs."

"We are not involved (in

spying on) demonstrators or persons who beat the drum for a cause," he said. "If a demonstration is taking place, we conduct surveillance if the group has been identified in other places with activities that have led to disruptions," Watkins said.

Prince George's Chief Sweitzer told a reporter: "We haven't had, don't have, and never will have any intelligence on anything other than criminal activity. Even if we wanted to—and we don't—we have too much else to do."

Alexandria Police Chief John B. Holihan gave a similar reply: "Our fellows are so busy they don't have time to conduct surveillance investigations. It has never been done to my knowledge."

The Virginia city also has "no files for non-criminal purposes," Holihan said. Holihan said his department "has never done any intelligence work on neighborhood groups" although there have been school and neighborhood racial conflict in recent years.

In Arlington County, Det. Curtis L. Solem, of the police intelligence unit, said, "We've never kept files on persons other than known criminals."

Even with the county being the headquarters for the National Socialist White People's Party, Solem said it has not been necessary for his men to spy to learn of planned demonstrations.

"We used to keep up with them (Nazis), but never covertly," Solem said. "They'd tell us if they were going to D.C. or elsewhere to picket. They've never given us a moment of trouble. Mostly, it's been other groups harassing them."

Also contributing to this story were Washington Post staff writers Linda Newton Jones and Ronald Taylor.