

FBI's Harassment of Socialist Workers Party

Washington

The FBI harassed the Socialist Workers Party for a decade with efforts to have members dismissed from their jobs, leaks to news media of unsavory items about their personal lives and attempts to foment violence at demonstrations, and to encourage police agencies to press petty prosecutions, newly released bureau documents show.

As a result of a court order in a civil suit brought in U.S. District Court in New York, the FBI was compelled to release 3138 pages of internal documents to the party and its youth arm, the young Socialist Alliance.

It is one of the largest disclosures of internal FBI workings in the history of the bureau and probably the most revealing set of documents since the theft of FBI documents in Media, Pa., in 1971, laying bare bureau operations in Pennsylvania.

The papers were made available to the New York Times yesterday.

The documents have also been made available to the Senate Select Committee on intelligence headed by Frank Church (Dem-Idaho), a Socialist Workers source confirmed.

The carton of papers sketched 31 years of bureau attention to the Socialist Workers Party that included detailed investigations of virtually every officer or official the 2500-member party ever had.

It also included 573 pages of documents on 41 operations of the bureau's counter-intelligence program against the party. The documents describe the program as trying to "disrupt" party activities and harass party members and their families.

Despite three decades of intensive investigation and at least one period—from

1961 to 1971—of covert efforts to destroy the party and frighten its members, there is no indication that the bureau brought any charges.

Most of the investigations of the party and its members appeared to have been conducted under the authority of federal statutes covering rebellion and insurrec-

tion; seditious conspiracy advocating the overthrow of the government; the Internal Security Act of 1950 and the Communist Control Act of 1954.

A spokesman said the FBI declined to comment on the questions raised by the documents because they involve a matter still in litigation.

New York Times

Longer NYTimes version filed FBI-II.