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'Stolen' FBI Files Turning Up

Washington

Representative Parren J. Mitchell (Dem-Md.) said yesterday he had received copies of files allegedly stolen from the FBI which he said indicated the FBI had engaged in "criminal" acts in its investigation of peace and black student groups.

The files, allegedly stolen from the Media, Pa., FBI branch office the night of March 8 by a group calling itself "Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI," were turned over to the Justice Department by Mitchell.

Senator George McGovern (Dem-S.D.) also received copies of the files through the mail, but turned them over to the FBI without commenting on their contents. He received them in a brown envelope postmarked March 19, Princeton, N.J.

Mitchell, who is black, said he received the files in a package delivered anonymously to his residence Sunday following an anonymous telephone call.

THEFT

The "citizens commission," which had called a newsman and taken responsibility for the theft, wrote cover letters to Mitchell and McGovern and apparently to several other persons saying the files were being sent to

them "because we feel that you have shown concern and courage as regards the issues which are, in part, documented in the enclosed material."

The letter did not name all of the recipients, but said, "about a week after you receive this material our commission will publicly announce this mailing together with the names of those to whom we have sent it."

CRIME

Mitchell said the theft of the records "was a crime and must be dealt with as such," but added, "the investigation and surveillance of individuals, peace groups and black student groups, as indicated by the files, in some instances is equally criminal and must be dealt with as such."

Mitchell said the files indicated that "if a group bears in its name 'freedom' it is suspect — if it bears in its name 'Afro' it is suspect."

McGovern, who has called for a congressional investigation of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's administration of the FBI, said, "I refuse to be associated with this illegal action by a private group. Illegal actions of this nature only serve to undermine reasonable and constructive efforts to secure public review of the administration of the FBI."

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