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Spying on students & teachers continues at local colleges

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New evidence further implicating the L.A. Community College District in the use of electronic surveillance against dissident student and faculty members was revealed this week.

An affidavit signed April 17 by Elizabeth Martin, a plaintiff in the American Federation of Teachers suit against the District, (see *Free Press*, March 10-16) details numerous occurrences of electronic surveillance over the past two years.

The original AFT suit filed in conjunction with the ACLU and the Western Center on Law and Poverty asks punitive damages of $1 million for personal damage done to students and faculty from the surveillance. General damages of $3,000 for each individual plaintiff and a permanent injunction are also being sought.

The recent affidavit cites the specific incidences of electronic surveillance by administration and security officers at L.A. Trade Tech and L.A. City College. The affidavit stated:

1. Some time prior to March, 1971, defendant SIGBEE SKIPPER and STANLEY BURGESS and DEAN RICHARD VREELAND met with other persons as yet unidentified and discussed their plans to eavesdrop upon and record meetings of the Black Student Union at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

2. November 18, 1970, defendant SKIPPER and other persons as yet unidentified recorded two speeches given by the Reverend Jesse Boyd in the auditorium at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

3. February 22, 1971, and continuing through at least November 5. 1971, defendant SKIPPER and other persons as yet unidentified engaged diverse persons in conversations upon the campus at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, including but not limited to other campus police personnel and faculty members, and without their knowledge or consent, recorded conversations defendant SKIPPER had with those persons and recorded conversations those persons were having with other persons.

4. February 22, 1971, defendant SKIPPER used and employed a long-range recording device at the campus of Los Angeles Trade Technical College to record confidential conversations students were having with other students while those students were attending a peaceful assembly upon that campus.

5. In April, 1971, defendant SKIPPER recorded an interrogation that Policewoman JACQUELINE JONES was conducting with a Los Angeles Trade Technical College student without that student's knowledge or consent.

6. November 5, 1971, defendant SKIPPER and other persons as yet unidentified placed a recording device in the campus police office at Los Angeles Trade Technical College for the purpose of recording confidential conversations in that office.

7. March 1, 1971, defendants FRED J. BRINKMAN, KARL HARRIS, ERNEST MONTEVERDE, and DR. FRANKLIN JOHNSON caused a meeting defendant BRINKMAN had with students WILLIAM BYERS and MELVIN C. COURTNEY in defendant BRINKMAN's office to be recorded and listened to in another office without the consent or knowledge of the students.

8. May 25, 1971, defendants HARRIS and SKIPPER and other persons as yet unidentified caused a meeting of defendant BOARD OF TRUSTEES to be video-taped without the knowledge or consent of those persons attending that meeting on that date.

9. On numerous occasions, as yet unknown, STANLEY BURGESS engaged diverse persons in conversations upon the campus at Los Angeles Trade Technical College and, without their knowledge or consent, recorded confidential conversations BURGESS had with those persons and divulged the contents of said conversations to other persons as yet unknown.

10. On March 4, 1971, and on other occasions as yet unknown, defendants caused meetings of the Black Student Union and other student organizations to be recorded in the student conference room at Los Angeles Trade Technical College without the consent or knowledge of persons attending those meetings.

B. USE BY DEFENDANTS OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT OR DEVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING OR RECORDING TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PLAINTIFFS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THEIR CLASSES WITH OTHER PERSONS:

1. On March 24, 1971, when GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN came to the campus at Los Angeles Trade Technical College defendants MONTEVERDE, SKIPPER, and other persons as yet unidentified, caused all incoming telephone calls to that campus to be recorded and monitored, without the consent or knowledge of those persons calling in or receiving said telephone calls.

2. In November or December, 1971, defendant GERALD SWARTZ and other persons as yet unidentified caused incoming telephone calls to Los Angeles Trade Technical College to be recorded and monitored, without the consent or knowledge of the persons calling in or receiving said telephone calls.

3. On numerous occasions, beginning on at least March 1, 1971, and continuing to at least November, 1971, BURGESS and other persons as yet unidentified caused incoming telephone calls to the Audio-Visual Department at Los Angeles Trade Technical College to be recorded and monitored, without the consent or knowledge of those persons calling in or receiving said telephone calls. Plaintiff GOTTFRIED RIMKA observed an apparatus attached to the receiver of the telephone in STANLEY BURGESS' office at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

4. In October, 1971, LOUIS KAUFFMAN, DAVID WILLIAMS, RICHARD TANI, and JERRY PARRICK, installed an Orrtronics recording device at the switchboard on the campus at Los Angeles City College for the purpose of recording all incoming telephone calls to that campus and, without the knowledge or consent of persons calling into the campus, caused said conversations to be recorded from that date to the present.

C. THE INDISCRIMINATE COLLECTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND STORAGE OF DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE IDENTITIES, ACTIONS AND BELIEFS OF PLAINTIFFS AND OTHER PERSONS SIMILARLY SITUATED BY THE DEFENDANTS:

1. In September or October, 1970, Policewoman SHARON BAILEY spent three days pulling student records in the Registration Office at Los Angeles City College and thereafter photocopying said student records for the purpose of at least transmitting said records to a local law enforcement agency.

2. During the period of time set forth in the complaint in this matter, defendants MONTEVERDE and SKIPPER maintained files containing information on the identities, actions and beliefs of plaintiffs and other persons similarly situated. Said files were maintained in a locked file in the campus police office at Los Angeles Trade Technical College at other places but on January 28, 1972, after the filing of the complaint in this matter, were moved from that location by defendant MONTEVERDE to another location as yet unknown.

3. Defendants have and continue to employ an intelligence form (attached to the Declaration of HAROLD E. COLE as Exhibit "A") which requires the reporting officer to include information on a student's organizational affiliations and associates, which information is not relevant to any possible criminal charge or conduct.

4. Defendants have in the past and continue to take photographs of plaintiffs and other members of their classes while such persons are engaged in peaceful and non-disruptive protected First Amendment activity and include such photographs in the aforementioned files on both students and faculty.

The Martin affidavit also gives the names of 59 persons who have knowledge of the District's practices. Attorneys from the Western Center announced that the affidavit would be submitted when court proceedings begin this week.