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FBI Admits Receiving Film Stolen From Vet

MIAMI, July 5 (AP) — The FBI has filed court documents admitting it received from an informer a documentary film reported stolen from a member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

But an FBI spokesman said in a statement filed in U.S. District Court in Pensacola that the film was not used "directly or indirectly" in the government's case against the "Gainesville Eight," seven VVAW members and a sympathizer accused of plotting violent disruptions at the 1972 Republican National Convention.

The FBI statement was filed with the court June 19 and disclosed Wednesday by The Miami Herald.

Anthony Sidell, 26, a VVAW coordinator in Jacksonville, said the film was stolen from his home April 19. The two-reel 16mm film is a documentary of the VVAW's 1971 "Winter Soldier" demonstrations in Detroit.

One of the people featured in the film was Scott Camil, Florida VVAW coordinator and a defendant in the conspiracy case.

In a statement filed with the federal court, Robert Pence, an agent assigned to the FBI's Washington office, said the FBI got the film from a man identified as Gene Thrasher, and Thrasher told them he got it from a man named David Williams.

Sidell said Thrasher and Williams visited his home the night before the film was stolen.

Pence said the film passed from Williams to Thrasher "without prior knowledge of involvement of the FBI" and stated that Thrasher "had previously supplied information to the FBI on other matters."