

How FBI Got Onto Little Lori

Newark, N. J.

The FBI has admitted it is keeping a "subversive" file on a 16-year-old high school girl who wrote a letter to the Socialist Workers party as part of a school project.

In papers filed in answer to a suit brought by the girl, Lori Paton of Chester, N. J., the FBI also revealed that it ordered a criminal investigation into her activities even though J. Wallace Laprade, agent in charge of the Newark office previously denied that the girl was being investigated by the bureau.

The extent of the FBI investigation and the existence of a "mail cover" on the Socialist Workers party headquarters in New York between January 23 and May 16, 1973 were revealed as the result of discovery proceedings by Frank Askin, attorney with the Constitutional Litigation Clinic at Rutgers University Law School.

Askin, a cooperating attorney with the New Jersey chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, is representing the girl in her action to force the FBI to expunge her name from its records and to pay \$65,000 in damages.

The suit also claims to be a class action representing "All American citizens who wish to exercise their rights under the first amendment to engage in lawful correspondence with minority political parties without being the objects of covert and overt surveillance and interception of their mail."

If the suit succeeds, it could lead to court-imposed limits on FBI surveillance. Officials of the bureau in Newark and Washington have refused to comment on the case. Earl Kaplan, an attorney with the internal security section in the Department of Justice, also has refused to let agents answer Askin's questions concerning routine bureau investigation procedures. These procedures are claimed to be privileged.

Miss Paton, who says she has been embarrassed by the FBI inquiry, is also concerned that her chances of ever working for the State Department in the far east will be hurt by the existence of an index card in FBI files in Newark and possibly also in Washington with her name and the notation "SM," meaning "subversive matter."

The girl became a target of the FBI inquiry when the FBI began a mail surveillance of the Socialist Workers party, 410 West Street, New York.

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