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Sedate Leftists Picket the FBI

See also this file 23 Oct 71

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CAMPBELL — The FBI offices here were picketed yesterday, but most politely.

A gang of some 25 young — 16 to 25 years of age — revolutionaries picketed in front of Pruneyard Towers for about 30 minutes before seeking a direct confrontation with FBI officials upstairs.

Aim of the demonstrators was to dramatize objections to a recent House Internal Security Committee report on Maoists in the country which pinpointed Vencermos (a Redwood City-based group) and the Revolutionary Union as being intimately involved.

Mild Chants

The group marched and chanted mild slogans:

"Defend the Bill of Rights, abolish the FBI."

Dressed in jeans and T-shirts, denims and chambray with medium length hair, they hardly drew a glance from William Kidwell, resident agent in charge who looks just like any other real estate or insurance agent in the building.

The most frequent response evoked from passers-by was:

"You mean the FBI is in our building?"

When demonstrators took elevators to the sixth floor, they found the FBI offices locked, but a knock gained entrance for two of them.

Lists Protested

Chris Menchine, an unemployed production worker who is an RU member, presented officials inside with a list of three demands.

The FBI was urged to

"stop harassing and spying on political organizations" and stop compiling confidential lists and files on individuals that are furnished to employer and union officials for blacklist purposes (the latter charge was denied to Menchine).

The federal government was also urged to withdraw the HISC report on Maoists on grounds it is being misused.

After the brief non-confrontation, one demonstrator started to tape a protest sign beneath the FBI's office sign, but took it down when a local policeman detailed to protect the offices suggested it did not belong there.

The demonstrators, some RU members, three Vietnam Veterans Against the War and some from San Jose State's Students for Seven Points, trooped downstairs and quietly dispersed.