

FBI Ordered to Destroy File on Civics Student

NEWARK, N.J. Aug. 30 (UPI)—A federal judge has ordered the FBI to destroy its files on a New Jersey teenager investigated because she wrote a letter to a left-wing group for a civics class project.

Lori Paton, 17, who hopes for a career in the Foreign Service with the State Department, wrote the letter seeking general philosophical information for an assignment called "From Left to Right" in her high school civics class, which was studying the political ideologies of several groups. She subsequently received an "A" in the course.

The letter—intended for the Socialist Labor Party—was mistakenly sent to the Social-

ist Workers Party in New York, which had been listed by the government as a subversive organization. At the time, federal agents maintained a mail surveillance of the group.

After intercepting the letter, agents began a field investigation, asking questions of Miss Paton's friends, school administrators, a credit bureau and police.

Miss Paton filed suit asking that the file be destroyed and that she be awarded \$65,000 in damages.

U.S. District Court Judge James A. Coolahan, in a nine-page opinion, ordered the FBI to destroy the file, but dismissed her claims for damages.