

## How FBI Hid Its Plan on Radicals

Washington

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said yesterday the FBI apparently failed to report regularly to the attorney general on a counterintelligence program it aimed at radical and extremist groups.

He said a report on the counterintelligence operation, revealed over the weekend, would be discussed today but he did not say whether it would be released by the Justice Department.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," Saxbe said there is no such program in operation now. But he declined to discuss in detail reports that the FBI ran such a program for 15 years.

Asked whether any attorney general had been aware of the program, Saxbe said "I can't be sure . . . As far as direct regular reports, I don't think so."

A copy of the draft FBI report on the program, supplied to the Associated Press by columnist Jack Anderson, indicates that the plan, known as Cointelpro, included such activities as forged credentials, sham organizations, anonymous letters and leaking of derogatory information.

According to the report, the program was aimed against the New Left, black militants, white hate groups, the Socialist Workers party and the U.S. Communist Party.

Although he said no such program is now in operation, Saxbe warned that it could develop.

"It could always develop," he said. "You could have Watergate happen again, you could have all these things happen again if the people in the Congress aren't interested."

But, Saxbe added that the answer is continual vigilance and "I'm not worried about it happening while I'm here."

He said current FBI operations concentrate on

criminal intelligence.

Over the years, the report said, FBI field offices submitted 3208 specific proposals for counterintelligence activity involving domestic organizations and individuals, and 2340 of those steps were subsequently approved and implemented.

The report said that seven of the specific programs were approved by then FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and there were no indications that any attorney general or anyone in Congress was notified.

The Justice Department first officially confirmed the existence of the counterintelligence program in December, 1973, when Saxbe, under court order, released two Hoover memoranda dealing with steps against the New Left.

Without giving details, names or other specific information, the report cited a number of Cointelpro actions that it termed "troubling."

Among these were:

- "Forging a group's business card for informant purposes."
- "Obtaining tax returns of members of a group."
- "Use of 'citizen band' radio, using the same frequency being used by demonstrators, to provide disinformation to disrupt demonstration."
- "Investigating the love life of a group leader for dissemination to the press."
- "Notifying credit bureaus, creditors, employers and prospective employers of members' illegal, immoral, radical and Communist party activities in order to affect adversely their credit standing or employment status."
- "Using informants to disrupt the activities of various groups by sowing disension and exploiting disputes."

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