

FBI Memos Show Use Of Forgery

Washington

A new set of FBI memoranda released yesterday by the Socialist Workers party shows that the bureau engaged in forgery among other tactics in attempting to disrupt the party.

One such instance involved the FBI office in San Francisco.

The party — a Trotskyite group — and its youth arm, the Young Socialist Alliance, are suing the government in federal court in New York for \$27 million in damages. The new documents bring to about 4000 the number of pages of FBI documents the party now has, all of which have been obtained through pre-trial discovery motions.

The latest internal FBI memoranda obtained by the party total about 185 pages, all concerning the FBI's counter-intelligence program (COINTELPRO), which the bureau claims was discontinued in 1971 after revelations about its existence and operation began appearing in the news media.

Previous disclosures about COINTELPRO have indicated how FBI agents schemed to disrupt and discredit the two organizations, as well as the Ku Klux Klan, the Communist party, the Black Panthers, Students for a Democratic Society, the Pro-

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gressive Labor party, the Weathermen, the Congress of Racial Equality, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and others.

Although the FBI says the COINTELPRO activities ceased in 1971, the Socialist Workers party says that they are continuing, and that their members have remained under constant FBI harassment.

To buttress their claim, the party released 13 memoranda detailing FBI agents' interviewing of party members in 1972 and 1973.

Party member Cathy Perkus pointed out in an interview that a report on COINTELPRO in 1974 by then Assistant Attorney General Henry Peterson listed the interviewing and contacting of an organization's members as a routine form of COINTELPRO harassment and intimidation.

The FBI has said such continued interviews are purley investigative.

"They may call them investigative," Miss Perkus said, "but to our mind they're identical to what the government itself describes as disruptive."

The memoranda detailing the FBI agents' interviews of the members show them in several cases obtaining interviews under the pretext of obtaining information for jury duty calls.

In one forgery instance, the documents show that in 1961 the FBI faked a letter purporting to be from the campaign manager of a Communist party candidate for San Francisco supervisor and challenging the legality of a Socialist Workers member's candidacy for the post.

When the San Francisco FBI agent in charge asked headquarters in Washington for permission to send the letter to increase animosity between the Communist party and the Socialist Workers, he asked that he be allowed to send the letter under the auspices of the Communist candidate's "election committee."

Permission was granted, but the agent instead forged the signature of the Communist's campaign manager, and so informed Washington.

Washington immediately ordered the operation stopped and demanded to know why the agent exceeded his authority and signed the letter with the name of an individual instead of the "broad manner."

In this case, as in others outlined in the memos, FBI headquarters made it clear the letters should not be traceable back to the FBI.

The Communist party's San Francisco supervisorial candidate in 1961 was longshoreman Archie Brown. Up to July of that year Richard Auerbach headed the San Francisco FBI office. Agent Frank L. Price succeeded him. None of those men could be reached for comment last night.

In an instance of an FBI-planted letter in Detroit, in which the letter was to appear as if it was coming from a student at Wayne State University, headquarters ordered the Detroit agent:

"The original letters should be prepared on a manual typewriter using commercially purchased stationery. If possible, you should consider the use of stationery containing the title or seal of the Wayne State University if this is available to the students through the university store or elsewhere . . ."

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