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Jane Fonda Cites FBI Ploy on Her

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LOS ANGELES, Dec 16 (UPI)—Actress Jane Fonda has given a federal court evidence that J. Edgar Hoover ordered FBI agents to send a phony letter to a Hollywood columnist describing her as leading Black Panthers in a foul-mouthed cheer for the assassination of Richard M. Nixon.

Copies of the order and the letter were provided by the Senate committee investigating FBI and CIA operations against U.S. citizens, her lawyers said.

The letter may not have been sent to the columnist, who never published the tale.

The documents helped Fonda win a round Monday in her \$2.8 million suit against federal agencies for allegedly spying on and maligning her, moving the judge to order the Justice Department to turn over to Fonda any more such files.

Fonda called the Hoover plan part of "an organized systematic attempt to discredit me during the Nixon administration . . . to make those of us who opposed the Nixon Administration appear irresponsible, dangerous and foul-mouthed."

According to the documents, the plan was originated on June 17, 1970, by Wesley G. Grapp, then head of the FBI office here, suggesting that a phony letter be sent to Army Archerd, columnist for Daily Variety, the influential show business newspaper. Grapp retired in 1972.

Hoover sent his approval eight days later, with the caution that Grapp was to "insure that mailing cannot be traced to the Bureau," the documents showed.

The letter, purportedly written by someone who had attended a Black Panther rally at the Embassy Auditorium on June 13, 1970, said the audience was ". . . Encouraged in revival-like fashion to contribute to defend jailed Panther leaders and buy guns for 'the coming revolution' and led by Jane and one of the Panther chaps in a 'we will kill Richard Nixon and any other _____ who stands in our way' refrain. . ."

Fonda said she attended the rally, but never made such statements.

"I never have and never will raise money or spend money for guns," she said. "I don't use foul language and I never said I wanted to kill Nixon. Those are totally fabricated for the purpose of slandering me and making me appear to be a violent and irresponsible person."

Archerd said he never received any such letter, raising the possibility that it was not mailed, and said that in any case he would not have used the information without checking it.

The letter was to be signed only "Morris."

"The only Morris I know is a cat," Archerd said. "The one who makes cat food commercials."