

F.B.I. Bars Data on Ties To a Nashville Journalist

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WASHINGTON, May 20—The Federal Bureau of Investigation refused today to answer specific Congressional question about its "special relationship" with a former Nashville newspaperwoman and how she came into possession of a highly sensitive document that the bureau had reportedly authenticated.

James B. Adams, deputy associate director of the bureau, said he would be unable to answer specific questions about the alleged continuing relationship between the bureau and the woman, Jacque Srouji, because the matter was under an investigation that could lead to possible criminal prosecution.

In a three-page statement, however, Mr. Adams told the House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Environment that he personally had no knowledge that Mrs. Srouji had been used by the bureau to persuade the subcommittee not to continue its investigation into the death of Karen Silkwood. Miss Silkwood was an Oklahoma plutonium worker who had charged widespread health violations at a factory operated by the Kerr-McGee Corporation.

Official's Denial

Mr. Adams denied that the bureau, as an organization, had authorized any type of assistance to Mrs. Srouji, including access to bureau documents concerning its investigation of Miss Silkwood's death.

The F.B.I. official also at first refused to comment in any way on statements made to The New York Times by Homer Boynton, another high bureau official, critical of John Seigenthaler, publisher of The Nashville Tennessean, the newspaper where Mrs. Srouji worked until she was dismissed two weeks ago.

In response to questions, however, Mr. Adams said that if The New York Times report of Mr. Boynton's remarks was accurate, such remarks would be "improper" and "strictly forbidden."

Representative John D. Dingell, the Michigan Democrat who heads the subcommittee, said that the Justice Department had informed him that the remarks of Mr. Boynton questioning the integrity of Mr. Seigenthaler, were under investigation by the department's office of professional responsibility.

'Unwise and Dangerous'

The testimony and somewhat limited denials of Mr. Adams came after Mr. Seigenthaler told the subcommittee that he believed the bureau in its relationship with Mrs. Srouji had been "unwise, reckless and even dangerous."

Mr. Seigenthaler said he based his judgment of this relationship on Mrs. Srouji's sworn testimony to the subcommittee late last month and on at least three long conversations he had

with her in early May.

It was during one of these conversations, according to Mr. Seigenthaler, that Mrs. Srouji showed him a copy of a "highly sensitive document" that he says the bureau since proved was authentic. The publisher has refused to disclose the subject matter of this document on the ground that such a description would be "dangerous." He did not elaborate.

It was also during these conversations, Mr. Seigenthaler said, that Mrs. Srouji told him that she had answered F.B.I. questions about two employees of The Tennessean.

Mr. Seigenthaler said two weeks ago that it was the admission that she had provided the bureau with some informa-

tion about the employees that convinced him to ask for her resignation.

In a news conference in Nashville on Tuesday, Mrs. Srouji denied that she had provided the F.B.I. information about The Tennessean or members of its staff, or that the bureau had even paid her for any information.

Refuse to Comment

Mrs. Srouji, accompanied by her lawyer, R. William Steltemeier, sat through today's testi-

mony by both Mr. Seigenthaler and Mr. Adams. She and her lawyer refused to make any comment on the various allegations that were made, insisting they had come to Washington to observe the hearings.

In earlier interviews, in her testimony before the subcommittee and in information included in a manuscript of a book she has written on nuclear energy, Mrs. Srouji has indicated she had a continuing relationship with the F.B.I. during much of her career as a journalist.

In the beginning of her career as a reporter for The Nashville Banner in the mid 1960's, she has said, her editors asked her to share her notes about civil rights demonstrations and disturbances with the bureau, including an F.B.I. special agent named Lawrence J. Olson Jr.

She has reported the following as among her other associations with the bureau:

¶ On at least one occasion while she was working for The Banner, the F.B.I. indirectly paid her way for a trip to Michigan to cover a meeting of the radical group, the Students for a Democratic Society.

¶ While working as a copy editor and feature writer for The Tennessean the last year or so, she provided the paper with detailed information and leads about F.B.I. activities such as a major gambling raid in Nashville.

¶ While working on her still unpublished book on nuclear energy, which includes a chapter on the Kerr-McGee company and the death of Miss Silkwood, she was given access to almost a thousand pages of documents from the F.B.I. investigation of the case. The agent who was in charge of this investigation in 1975 was Mr. J. Olson.

¶ While working on her book, Mrs. Srouji also developed a relationship with a member of the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

In his testimony today, Mr. Seigenthaler read into the record an extract from a memorandum he said Mrs. Srouji gave him after their first conversation about her relationship with the F.B.I.

"An eye has become infested with piranhas, and a sacrifice is in order, then I certainly can take some of Mr. Hoover's finest along for the swim," Mr. Seigenthaler quoted her as saying.

Mrs. Srouji's memorandum also noted that she had kept many letters and tape recordings to document the nature of her relationship with the bureau. "You might say I have been a good record keeper," Mrs. Srouji reportedly wrote.

She also discussed the critical comments in her book about the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union — the union Miss Silkwood was a member of — and the hostile response that appears to be developing about these comments. "I took a gamble and questioned the union's chastity on the Silkwood matter, and then I got slapped in a way that was unexpected. Olsen is going to get the ax," she predicted, "and this is alien to the American way of life."