

DEC 3 1975

NYTimes

## INFORMER SCORES F.B.I. ON VIOLENCE

Tells Hearing That Agents  
Rarely Tried to Bar Klan  
Attacks Against Blacks

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2 (AP)—

A top official of the Federal Bureau of Investigation today called the campaign against the Ku Klux Klan the bureau's "finest hour," but a one-time informer said that agents rarely acted to head off Klan attacks against blacks and civil rights workers.

The informer, Gary Thomas Rowe Jr., who wore a white cloth mask, told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that F.B.I. officials condoned his participation in acts of violence when he was a Klan member, from 1960 to 1965. They also ordered him to sow dissension within the Klan by having sexual relations with the wives of as many Klan members as possible, he said.

James B. Adams, the F.B.I.'s deputy associate director for investigation, testified that Mr. Rowe had never been told to engage in violence or sexual activities.

However, Senator Walter D. Huddleston, Democrat of Kentucky, said that Mr. Rowe's control agent had in effect corroborated his story by telling the committee that Mr. Rowe "couldn't be an angel and be a good informant."

### Bureau Termed Bungler

Senator Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota, told Mr. Adams that the record was now clear, that while the F.B.I. was the world's best law enforcement agency, it was also a consistent bungler in the field of political activities.

It interfered with civil liberties and finally heaped shame upon itself, Mr. Mondale said.

Mr. Rowe, who lives in California under an assumed identity, said he warned the F.B.I. three weeks in advance about plans by the Klan to attack freedom riders in Birmingham, Ala.

He said that the attack took place as planned as the Klan moved in with baseball bats, clubs, chains and pistols after having been promised free rein for 15 minutes by members of the Birmingham police force.

Mr. Rowe said that when he asked the F.B.I. why nothing had been done to prevent the attack, he was told, "Who in the hell were we going to report it to? The police department was involved."

He said that the Klan got extensive help from the police department and county sheriff's department in Birmingham and was allowed unlimited access to the police department's civil rights intelligence files.

He also told of an incident in which a judge in Birmingham returned to the Klan weapons that had been confiscated by the Alabama State Highway police. He did not identify the judge.

### Disruption Orders

The incident occurred in 1963 as Klan members were traveling to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa to support Gov. George C. Wallace, who had proclaimed his intention to stand in the schoolroom door to prevent the university's integration.

Mr. Rowe said that the F.B.I. had told him to take any action he could to disrupt and discredit the Klan, including spying on the sex lives of Klan members in order to "pass the word around and to cause dissension in their homes."

"I was told to sleep with as many wives as I could, to break up marriages," he said.

That charge was denied under oath by Mr. Adams.

Mr. Adams said that at the height of the F.B.I.'s campaign against the Klan, about 6 per cent of the Klan members were F.B.I. informers. He acknowledged that the bureau had made some mistakes, but said that he did not believe that a balanced picture of its achievements had emerged.

"I think our accomplishment with the Klan was the F.B.I.'s finest hour," he said.