

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Use of Provocateurs

To the Editor:

The Times on Oct. 24 reported that an F.B.I. paid informant "had become a member of the steering committee . . . of the Crazies, a group noted for disrupting gatherings of liberals."

That police undercover work for investigative purposes is at times appropriate can hardly be doubted. It is quite another matter for the F.B.I. to pay people to provoke the very conduct which it then loudly denounces and sets out to suppress in the name of saving the country from dangerous radicals.

It would be quite useful to know how many other recent incidents of outrageous conduct, over which there has been so much public dismay as signifying incipient radical totalitarianism, have in fact been "steered" by provocateurs in the employ of law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Hoover seems to think many well-meaning but misguided young people are being manipulated by our enemies. Would he be comforted to learn that they are being manipulated instead by his own minions?

Joseph L. Sax  
Ann Arbor, Mich., Oct. 24, 1969

(Clipping filed FBI - II.)