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FBI's Candidate For School Board

Indianapolis, Ind.

The FBI has confirmed that a 22-year-old student who ran unsuccessfully for election to the Indianapolis school board was a paid FBI informer at the time.

The informer, Stephen H. Cooper, now 25, says he ran for the school board in May, 1972, as a candidate for a front organization of the Young Socialist Alliance with the knowledge and encouragement of the FBI so he could gain prestige with leftist groups.

FBI officials in Washington

recently confirmed Cooper was a paid FBI informer from January, 1972, to April, 1973, when he was dropped because he revealed his role as an informer to a columnist for the Indianapolis News.

Cooper claims the FBI told him to try to organize anti-war demonstrations in Indianapolis, to infiltrate an underground newspaper, the YSA, the Student Mobilization Committee and other anti-war groups, and to attend the 1972 Republican National Convention

Cooper failed as a candidate for the school board race in April,

running as an independent. "If I had not been with the FBI I don't think I would have run for the school board," Cooper said.

Cooper said he was initially hired for \$250 a month by the FBI to report on dealers of hard drugs, but was soon asked to provide information on leftist political activities.

"The implication was made that if I cooperated with the drug thing, a possible marijuana charge involving me and informant could be dropped," Cooper said.

Washington Post