

From column of short items "compiled by Jim Ridgeway and Bo Burlingham with the assistance of Zodiac News Service."

catch as catch can

The U.S. Department of Justice has confirmed that it makes a practice of asking major American corporations to hire former Justice Department informers and spies so that they can be moved to "out-of-the-way and inconspicuous places" after completing their undercover work.

Zodiac News Service quotes a Department spokesman as saying that "at least a dozen, but fewer than 100 informers" had been hired "as a public service" by numerous corporations after the informers had completed their assigned tasks.

The practice became known in May during a Canadian television interview with Pershing Gervais, the FBI informer hired last year to "entrap" New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. After testifying about alleged payoffs to Garrison in a gambling swindle, Gervais disappeared from New Orleans, and Garrison was indicted.

It turns out that Gervais has been employed for the past three months by the General Motors Company in Vancouver, British Columbia, at an annual salary of \$18,000. General Motors reports that it hired Gervais "at the request of the Justice Department" after the Department informed GM that it wanted to place the informer at "an out-of-the-way location."

The Justice Department acknowledged that the practice of asking corporations to hire ex-informers "was very common and very successful." Said the spokesman: "We've seen to it that quite a few informers have been hired, although we can't give a specific figure."

[Complete.]