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## NETWORKS GIVEN PROMISE ON F.B.I.

### Clark Says Agents Won't Pose as Newsmen

The Justice Department has assured the three major networks that members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been instructed not to impersonate newsmen during investigations.

The assurance came from Attorney General Ramsey Clark in a letter to William Small, Wash-

ington bureau chief for the Columbia Broadcasting System, who had complained about the practice in behalf of C.B.S., the National Broadcasting Company and the American Broadcasting Company.

On June 17, network newsmen covered a draftcard burning ceremony in Washington in which female members of the New England Committee for Non-Violent Action burned the cards of their male companions.

During their coverage, newsmen noticed one and possibly two persons unfamiliar to them taking pictures and tape recording interviews with the sisters.

Some of the questions being

asked struck them as strange coming from a reporter. One of the strange "newsmen" identified himself as a reporter for International News Service, an agency that some years ago merged with the United Press to become United Press International. The next day, a reporter for The Washington Post identified the man as an F.B.I. agent.

On June 25, Mr. Small, as rotating pool coordinator for the three networks, wrote Mr. Clark to protest the F.B.I. impersonation.

On Monday, Mr. Clark replied, saying he shared the view that F.B.I. agents should not

pose as newsmen in gathering information.

"Instructions have been issued by the F.B.I. director [J. Edgar Hoover] to all F.B.I. personnel that under no circumstances are they ever to pose as members of the news media in connection with any future investigations," he said.

Some New York reporters say they have seen members of the City Police Department taking pictures and gathering information while dressed in civilian clothes and wearing working press badges.

Lieut. Herman Lederman of the department's Bureau of Public Information said yesterday that "policemen do not use press cards—they are not permitted to have them."

"It's possible," he said, "that some detectives have posed as newsmen during an investigation. We can't keep track of what everyone does, but it is definitely not department policy for them to do so."