

Later material on this filed Hoover.

Unsigned Letter Criticizes Hoover

Washington

Senator George S. McGovern (Dem-S.D.) yesterday made public an anonymous letter, on FBI stationery and purportedly from 10 FBI agents, charging that the agency has lost effectiveness because its agents must spend so much time polishing the image of J. Edgar Hoover.

The letter charges that Hoover, to enhance his reputation as a crime fighter, has had FBI conviction statistics padded and has concentrated on arrests of minority group members for crimes too insignificant to attract the attention of local police departments.

"We write . . . because we believe that the FBI could be a vital force within our system of government for good if allowed to do the job that needs doing," the letter said. "If we could for only a few moments forget about the director's image and the preservation thereof. At the present that is all we exist for."

An FBI spokesman said the agency could not comment "on an anonymous letter, the authenticity of which has not been established."

McGovern, in a statement which he said he would deliver on the Senate floor today, said the letter offers further proof that a congressional investigation of Hoover's methods is called for.

McGovern took on the FBI director a few weeks ago over Hoover's treatment of former FBI agent John F. Shaw.

Shaw, attending a course at the John Jay College of Law in New York City, wrote a letter to his professor defending Hoover against the professor's criticism of the FBI but conceding that some of his criticisms were valid.

He had the letter typed at an FBI office and when a copy fell into Hoover's

hands, Shaw was ordered transferred to Montana. When Shaw rejected the transfer, Hoover accepted his resignation "with prejudice" — meaning he could not get another job with the Federal Government.

The unsigned letter to McGovern, dated February 2 and purportedly written in Washington, said the treatment given Shaw "is not so unusual."

"It is indicative of an entire attitude and method of operation employed by FBI headquarters," the letter said. "There are many, many others who suffered many others who suffered grees . . ."

The authors urged McGovern to make whatever use of the letter he deems warranted.

"We only ask that you do not let the original out of your possession," the letter said. "It could possibly be traced. And believe us, it would be."

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