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Stolen Files Show F.B.I. Seeks Black Informers

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Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, April 7—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been recruiting informers, ranging from bill collectors to apartment house janitors, in an effort to develop constant surveillance in black communities and New Left organizations.

Under a program begun in 1968, agents were ordered to cultivate informers who could move into high levels of radical organizations, but later directives from Washington warned that some informers had been attacking policemen and urged "control" of such activities.

These and other flickering glimpses of the bureau's investigative techniques emerged from a bundle of 25 pages, making up nine separate documents, that were recently stolen from the bureau's office in Media, Pa., and made public.

The New York Times obtained these latest documents from Resist, a Cambridge-based organization that raises funds for other organizations resisting the Indochina war. Resist said it received them from anonymous sources earlier this week.

Report on Borrowed Car

The documents are part of 800 pages of material stolen from the Media office on March 8 by an organization calling itself the Citizens Commission to Investigate the F.B.I. The group says it hopes to expose "the nature and extent of surveillance and intimidation carried on by this office of the F.B.I."

Among the documents was a memorandum in which a lay brother at Villanova Monastery in Pennsylvania is said to have reported that a Villanova University priest had borrowed a monastery car "for the entire

weekend prior to the bombing of the U. S. Capitol on March 1

The informer felt this was significant because the priest was known as a sympathizer with the Rev. Philip J. Berrigan and his brother, the Rev. Daniel F. Berrigan, who is awaiting trial on Federal conspiracy charges, the memorandum said.

Memorandums circulated to all bureau headquarters agents in the country in February, 1968, paint a picture of efforts to develop a network of paid informers in black communities that would include operators of taverns, liquor stores and barber shops; janitors, taxi drivers and salesmen; newspaper, food and beverage distributors, and bill collectors.

Every agent, under this directive, would be required to obtain at least one racial informer. "All information should be recorded by memo — with copies for the files on any individuals or organizations mentioned," one document said.

A sort of alliance with veterans organizations in the search for a vast system of racial informers was suggested by a passage that said, "We are exploring other sources which may produce large numbers of prospects such as men honorably discharged from the armed services, members of veterans organizations and the like."

Much of the information that the bureau said the network should uncover would concern incipient riots. Later instructions elaborating on the uses of the system called for specific inquiries into the involvement of black extremists in criminal activities, black militants who attempt to influence the black community, peddlers and pur-

chasers of extremist literature, and efforts by foreign powers to "take over the Negro militant movement."

In passing, agent were also advised that information on gambling activities should be reported "so that this office might receive credit for any 'handle' from such a gambling operation."

Singled out for surveillance were a whole range of buildings in black areas of Philadelphia, including offices of the Congress of Racial Equality, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Black Coalition and a settlement house.

The stolen documents also indicate that in 1968 the bureau involved itself in mailing anonymous literature to college officials in an effort to influence their attitudes toward student activists.

Warning For Agents

An article on the seizure of buildings at Columbia University in 1968, which pictured the act as the first step in a plan to seize the industrial power of America, was recommended to be mailed "anonymously to college educators who have shown a reluctance to take decisive action against the 'New Left.'"

An agent in the office was asked to "handle" Swarthmore, Haverford and Villanova Colleges and to report "positive results or comments by recipients."