

NYTimes <sup>MAY 12 1971</sup> Group Reports Attempt to Rob L.I. Offices of F.B.I.

By BILL KOVACH

A group calling itself the People's Bureau of Investigation reported yesterday an unsuccessful attempt to break into and steal documents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's office in Garden City, L. I.

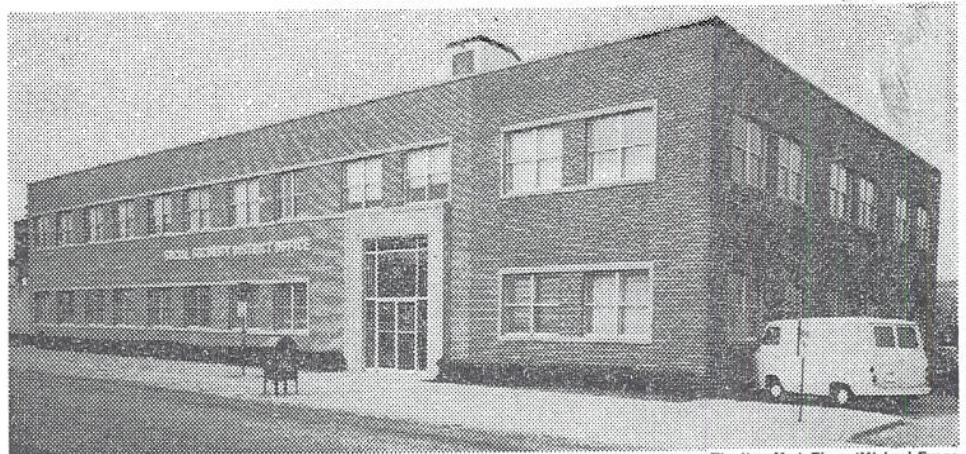
An anonymous woman caller telephoned The New York Times to report the attempt, which apparently was made Sunday night. The attempt was being reported to The Times, the caller said, "because the F.B.I. is suppressing information that yet another attempt has been made by citizens to investigate the F.B.I."

Spokesmen for the Federal agency at first refused to comment on the claim, but later made the following statement:

"We are conducting an investigation concerning an unsuccessful attempt at burglary of our office space at Garden City."

The F.B.I. refused further comment.

According to the caller, the attempt to enter the office—which is in a two-story building a block from the Nassau County Police Department —



The New York Times/Michael Evans

The building at 1505 Kellum Place, Garden City, L. I., when the F.B.I. has office space

took place late Sunday night, but was "aborted when someone unexpectedly entered the building."

The F.B.I. did not discover the attempted break-in until Monday, when three holes were found ripped through the plaster wall separating the office from the second-floor corridor.

"We knew we couldn't complete the attempt," the informant said yesterday, "but we left behind a note and other evidence which we assume the F.B.I. is using in an attempt to

investigate this and other things."

The allusion was apparently to the successful entry of the Media, Pa., F.B.I. office on March 8 by a group calling itself The Citizens Commission to Investigate the F.B.I.

About 800 documents were taken in that theft and have been released periodically to the press, giving the public glimpses into the shadowy world of undercover investigations and intelligence gathering. The documents have also fanned a growing national controversy over the F.B.I.'s role in domestic surveillance and J. Edgar Hoover's direction of the office.

The F.B.I. spokesman refused to comment on the possibility of a link between the Media and the Garden City actions. A visitor to the Garden City office reported yesterday that the three holes had been fresh-

ly patched with plaster and that the entire wall had been smeared "with something that looks like thin black paint."

The informant said, but the F.B.I. would not confirm, that before "aborting" the attempt, the group left behind the following note:

"We are citizens of these United States who opposed the violent oppression perpetrated by our government. We act against the F.B.I. because it epitomizes the lawlessness of a Government which prevents the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America from self-determination and denies human dignity to many red, brown, black and white Americans and continues an oppressive and imperialistic war in Southeast Asia."

\* See this file 24 Jul 71, NYTimes, Arnold H. Lubasch, "Nun Wins Contempt Appeal in Theft of F.B.I. Papers Case."