

# 'FBI Friends' on Journalism

By William Claiborne

The Friends of the FBI Inc., which has been set up to stand in solidarity against the "overclassification" of CIA documents, will hold a news conference Monday to announce the results of a survey of public opinion on the subject.

The Friends of the FBI Inc. was formed last fall in the wake of Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Postal Service investigations into the violation of tax and postal laws.

Earlier this month it was disclosed that of the \$10,000 in contributions received by the original Friends at least \$36,000 was paid out in fees and expenses to the founding partners with no public accounting to the contributors.

Hollywood actor Frank Zimbalist Jr., who portrays Inspector Erskine in the television series "The FBI," testily withdrew as honorary chairman, claiming he was "used" by the partners.

The new president of the revamped Friends of the FBI Inc. is J. A. (Jay) Parker, 36, one of the few blacks active in Young Americans

planted discretion in U.S. journalism.

He heard Fulton Lewis Jr., a former broadcast journalist, and a former House of Representatives committee member, who was indicted for espionage, and a former CIA official who was indicted for espionage.

The Friends of the FBI Inc. is a non-profit organization. Its members include Robert C. Byrd, D-Md., who complained that too many "haphazard" and "irresponsible" actions are allowed to "overwhelm the simple art of good writing" and that sensationalism had sur-

The Friends also listened to allegations by NBC newsmen Robert Goralski and Detroit News reporter Jerry Wolff that the government is guilty of overclassifying documents for self-serving reasons. Their criticism was met with less approval.

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adverse criticism from "the left."

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for Freedom, a former editor of the magazine "The Nation," said he was "shocked" by the disclosure that the Friends of the FBI had received \$36,000 in contributions from the founding partners with no public accounting to the contributors.

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He also complained of "careless typos" and "haphazard editing" in the magazine. "There has gone from journalism a great deal of the pride and a great deal of the loyalty that once were characteristic of the practitioners of the scribes' art."

Byrd also complained of a lack of objectivity in reporting law enforcement

stories, particularly in cases where demonstrators clash with the police.

"One day, we may return to an America where tolerance—not overtolerance—is a virtue," Byrd said. "Where a different point of view is to be sought and respected and is not the object of derision and contempt."

Today's conference session on "Surveillance and the Media" will include ABC news producer Steven Fleischman; Richard McCutcheon, of New York's WNET-TV; and Frank Carington of Americans for Effective Law Enforcement.

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