

KPFA transcribed from tape
[] also filed Informants

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Excerpt from interview of J. Patrick Gray III, acting director of the FBI. Date of interview not given, but from context it took place very soon after his appointment. At the end of the tape Judy Miller says, "The tape was obtained for Pacifica with the help of Bob Kuttner." Tape quality poor.

From introduction by Judy Miller, Pacifica Radio, Washington:

On this evening's program we shall hear Walter Pinkus, publisher of the Morning News, interviewing J. Patrick Gray, whom the Nixon administration appointed as temporary successor to the directorship of the FBI upon the death of J. Edgar Hoover.

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Pinkus: There's been a lot of criticism, most of it uninformed, but a lot of it fairly dramatic, about the whole informant program, the informant, participant, and the agent provocateur.

Gray: Well, the agent provocateur I would have no part of. I absolutely believe that to be a totally improper use of our talents, totally improper and completely unconstitutional, and I would not indulge in it for one second. The utilization of ways and means of gathering intelligence I think is critical to our operation, and I think it's a responsibility that we have to keep ourselves well apprised of developments affecting the well-being, the safety and the security of the people of the United States, and that those ways and means have got to be utilized by us to discharge our responsibilities to the people. I feel very, very [several words unintelligible]. Can you say that you could ever, in a free society, elevate the informant to a position of respectability? I think not. I think the days of grandeur of any informant is long gone.

But does society need them? I think the answer to that has got to be yes in working with its law enforcement agencies, because it's a terribly, terribly difficult thing to get some of the information that is necessary for us to meet our responsibilities, or for any law enforcement agency to meet its responsibilities.

But the agent provocateur is another matter, and I [unintelligible] no part of it. That's been made pretty clear to all of our people [unintelligible] engaged in operations.

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