

FBI Secrecy

In an affidavit in an ACLU Foundation challenge to the federal government's classification system, Professor Allen Weinstein, chairman of the American Studies Department at Smith College and a scholar of the Cold War, alleges that documents the FBI has withheld from him as classified were released by the Bureau to a number of other persons, including television producers and journalists, mostly persons with friendly views about the Bureau. Though Weinstein's interest in Bureau files, particularly those of the Alger Hiss case, is purely scholarly, he has been denied access. The Union's lawsuit is brought under the federal Freedom of Information Act. The case is before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.