

'Harassment'

FBI Pressure on Professor Told

WASHINGTON

The FBI's Counterintelligence Program attempted to encourage the dismissal of an Arizona State University professor in 1970 by filing an anonymous, derogatory letter about him with a college committee that was reviewing his teaching contract, according to documents from FBI files.

The documents were released to the professor, Norris Starsky of Los Angeles, by Attorney General William B. Saxbe after Starsky yesterday appealed under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

It is the first documented specific incident of harassment of a private citizen by the Counterintelligence Program, known as COINTELPRO.

The existence of COINTELPRO was disclosed by Saxbe last November when he made public a 15-year review of the FBI's domestic and counterintelligence efforts.

The committee that conducted the review of FBI activities, a committee that included FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley, said that some of the COINTELPRO operations "can only be considered abhorrent in a free society."

Starsky was an associate professor at Arizona State University from 1964 until 1970 and was known as an outspoken supporter of liber-

al causes. He had organized the first anti-war teach-ins at the school, helped win campus rights for the Students for a Democratic Society and was a member of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers party.

The Arizona State Committee to whom the derogatory letter had been directed ultimately recommended that Starsky not be dismissed but the board of regents overruled the committee and the late Harry Newburn, president of the university and arranged for Starsky to take a one-year sabbatical from which "he would not return."

Starsky has contended in a lawsuit that he has been unable to find work as a professor since then and is now in research.

According to the documents, the authorization to send an anonymous letter to discredit Starsky came directly from J. Edgar Hoover, the late FBI director, after a request was filed by the senior agent in charge in the Phoenix field office.

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