



Ex-FBI informer Gary Rowe wore a hood when he testified before a Senate committee

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Klan Infiltrator Tells About FBI's Sex Drive

Washington

Gary Rowe, who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan for the FBI, appeared in a gaping white hood yesterday and testified that the FBI instructed him to sleep with the wives of as many Klansmen as he could to get information and sow dissension in the Klaverns.

He also told the Senate Intelligence Committee that his FBI superiors failed to use advance intelligence he provided to prevent the beating of the Freedom Riders in Birmingham during the 1963 demonstrations.

FBI officials denied that Rowe had been given instructions

to involve himself sexually with the wives of Klansmen or to find out, as he alleged he was instructed, about their sex lives.

Ten years ago Rowe's testimony helped to convict three Klansmen in the murder of Detroit civil rights activist Violet Liuzzo, who was murdered by a shotgun blast in Alabama on March 25, 1965. The federal charge under which they were tried was depriving Mrs. Liuzzo of her civil rights.

Yesterday, Rowe insisted on wearing the hood, with its goggle-sized eyeholes, to protect his new identity as a private investigator

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FBI

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on the West Coast.

Rowe has adopted a new name as part of the disguise with which he is seeking to protect himself from reprisal for his role as an FBI informer during 1959-65.

Appearing with Rowe at yesterday's hearing on the FBI informer system and how it works was Mary Jo Cook, who infiltrated the Vietnam Veterans Against the War chapter in Buffalo, N.Y., to serve — as she was told by her FBI handlers — as a "big sister" to emotionally unstable Vietnam veterans.

"It was more exciting working as an informant than working as a teller in a bank," Cook testified in explaining her affiliation with the FBI.

Eventually it was Cook who soured on her role as an informer. She resigned as an FBI informer in November, 1974. By the time she was ready for her debut as a senatorial witness yesterday, she had this to say of the Veterans, against whom the FBI paid her \$5000 to snoop:

"In a genocidal war which deprived them of heroism with honor, they came to grips with the inherent fascism of a war of containment which would subject a civilian populace of color to years of death and terror — all in the name of democracy."

The object of yesterday's hearing was to help Congress produce new guidelines governing FBI domestic intelligence activities.

Most of those who appeared in the Senate Caucus Room yesterday — FBI officials, senators and witnesses — agreed that the FBI had erred in the past and that new rules are necessary.

FBI witnesses objected to a proposal to require a warrant for the use of informers against organizations such as the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

"Such a limitation might be unconstitutional because it would limit the First Amendment rights of the informants to communicate with the government," the FBI contended in a written statement to the committee.

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MARY JO COOK
She tired of role

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