FBI — II

aper in Nashville Dismisses Writer Linked to the F.B.I.

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WASHINGTON, May 7 — A newspaperwoman whose alleged "special relationship" with the Federal Bureau of Investigation was reported to Congress last week has been dismissed by her employer, The Nashville Tennessean.

The woman, Jacque Srouji, a copy editor and writer, said the dismissal had resulted from a charge that she had been an undercover agent for the F.B.I., an allegation that she denied.

Questions about her role arose last week before the House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Environment when she testified that she had been given access to almost 1,000 pages of documents from the bureau's inquiry into the death in an automobile accident of Karen Silkwood, an Oklahoma plutonium worker.

Representative John D. Dingell, Democrat of Michigan, who is chairman of the subcommittee, said that when the panel staff later questioned an

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F.B.I. agent about Mrs. Srouji's access to the papers, the agent responded that he could not talk about Mrs. Srouji any further because she had a "special relationship" with the bureau.

Mrs. Srouji's contacts with the bureau are of interest to Congress because of the recent report by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities that the bureau had used individuals in news organizations as part of its broad effort to hurt the reputataions of citizens and organizations selected as "targets."

In an interview, Mrs. Srouji said that in the early 1960's she went along with the orders of editors at The Nashville Banner, her previous employer, and permitted agents to "use my newspaper reports" on civil rights activities. She also confirmed her testimony of having been shown hundreds of pages from the files of an F.B.I. investigation of Miss Silkwood's death, and said that she had been given copies of bureau summaries of the investigation.

John Seigenthaler, the publisher of The Nashville Tennessean, said in a statement that the major reason for his decision to dismiss Mrs. Srouji had involved a third relationship between her and the bureau in which she acknowledged answering questions from agents about two of the paper's staff members.

"In taking the action separating her from the paper the most important facor was that she acknowledged to me that agents of the F.B.I. had asked her questions about two members of the staff of this newspaper," Mr. Seigenthaler said.

"If the information given to me by her is credible, and I believe that it is, then the F.B.I. in my judgment has pursued an unwise course of conduct in the recent past," the publisher added.

Mr. Seigenthaler further said tat he feared "the rights and interests" of the two unnamed staff members might have been jeopardized.

The F.B.I.'s disruptive tactics described by the Senate panel were called Cointelpro (for counterintelligence program) by the bureau and continued from 1956 to 1972. Mrs. Srouji, in response to questions, said she had been given access to the F.B.I. documents in the spring of 1975.

Representative Dingell, in an interview, said that the F.B.I. agent who had allegedly given Mrs. Srouji access to the F.B.I. files and who initially told the subcommittee she had a special relationship with the bureau was Larry Olsen, a 44-year-old agent with 14 years experience. Mr. Dingell said that Mr. Olsen provided the information last week while being questioned informally but that he declined to answer questions today when placed under oath.

The Congressman said that the F.B.I. had refused to give the subcommittee many of the documents it had requested concerning the case but that Mrs. Srouji had shown the staff papers that appeared to be from the F.B.I. file on the Silkwood investigation.

"We're just going to keep asking questions until we find out what happened in this case," Mr. Dingell said.

The F.B.I. refused all comment today on Mrs. Srouji and her alleged relationship with the F.B.I.

Mrs. Srouji said in a telephone interview that the last formal relationship she had with the F.B.I. dated from the early 1960's and was done on the orders of her editors.

"That's the only affiliation I've had with them," she said. "This is the truth, that I don't work for them, and I'll take a polygraph test on that," she said.

Mrs. Srouji is the author of a book on nuclear power, "Critical Mass," that is scheduled to be published in mid-June by Aurora Publishers Inc., a small Nashville concern. Dominick DeLorenzo, Aurora's president, said that he had asked Mrs. Srouji to write the book on nuclear power after she had written two articles on the subject for a local magazine.

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