

NYTimes
FBI - II
MAY 15 1976
MAY 15 1976
House Panel to Study F.B.I.'s Link to Ex-Reporter

By DAVID BURNHAM

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 14—An alleged "special relationship" between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a former Nashville newspaperwoman over the last decade will be examined in a public hearing next Thursday by a House subcommittee, according to its chairman, Representative John D. Dingell.

In a letter to Attorney General Edward H. Levi, Mr. Dingell said one question that could be explored was whether the F.B.I. had played a secret role in arranging for the newspaperwoman to get in touch with the subcommittee.

The Michigan Democrat said another question that would be examined at the hearing were "inconsistencies" between the testimony of the newspaperwoman, Jacque Srouji, and statements by Larry Olson, an F.B.I. agent who Congressional sources say was one of her "control agents."

Dismissed Last Week

Mrs. Srouji, until last week a copy editor and writer on The Nashville Tennessean, was dismissed last week. At the time, John Seigenthaler, publisher of The Tennessean, said the major reason for her dismissal was her acknowledgement that she had answered questions from the F.B.I. about two members of the newspaper's staff.

In a statement yesterday, Mr. Seigenthaler warned editors and publishers throughout the United States that "F.B.I. news sources may in fact be a two-way conduit through which the Bureau may seek to raise questions about internal affairs of newspapers and the conduit, politics and ideologies of the people who work for them."

The investigation by the House Small Business Committee's Energy and Environment Subcommittee was initially aimed at examining how the

F.B.I. and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission handled their investigation into the death in an automobile crash of Karen Silkwood, a technician who had raised questions about the safety measures involved in the operation of a plutonium facility operated by the Kerr-McGee Corporation in Oklahoma.

But the focus has shifted somewhat because of Mrs. Srouji's testimony two weeks ago that she had been given considerable access to the F.B.I. investigative file of the Silkwood death in connection with a book she was writing on nuclear power. This contact appeared to parallel the bureau's Cointelpro, or counterintelligence program, under which various techniques were used by the F.B.I. to damage the reputation of such public figures as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In his letter to the Attorney General, Mr. Dingell said that, in the hearing next week, the Justice Department and the F.B.I. must be prepared to explain "any payments, either directly or indirectly, to Mrs. Srouji by the bureau or any of its employees, and how her activities relate to the F.B.I.'s Cointelpro."

Data on F.B.I. Sought

Mr. Dingell also said that Mr. Levi or his spokesman "should be prepared to discuss the nature, scope and purpose of the F.B.I.'s activities in compiling and maintaining files on individuals who oppose the use or expansion of nuclear energy."

Mr. Dingell asked that the witnesses from the Justice De-

partment be ready to provide the subcommittee with complete information on the "role of the bureau or any of its field offices played in her contact with or appearance before this subcommittee, and any connection the bureau had in assisting Mrs. Srouji in researching, writing or publishing her book on nuclear energy."

In his statement yesterday, Mr. Seigenthaler said Mrs. Srouji had shown him "highly sensitive documents" that appeared to come from the F.B.I. and that she had not offered to The Tennessean.

"I have never known a citizen to have access to information as sensitive as she had," Mr. Seigenthaler said without elaborating on the subject.

Last Contact

Another unanswered question being pursued by the subcommittee were Mrs. Srouji's contacts with Sergey F. Zaytsev, a 43-year-old official in the Soviet Embassy, in connection with another chapter in her book on nuclear energy. According to American intelligence officials, Mr. Zaytsev is a high agent in the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence service.

Mrs. Srouji reportedly had

her last contact with Mr. Zaytsev while in Washington last month, from April 19 to April 30, as a journalist second class in the Navy Reserve.

A spokesman for the Navy said that Mrs. Srouji, a 32-year-old mother of three, joined the enlisted reserves last Jan. 16.

Although the F.B.I. has repeatedly refused to comment on its alleged relationship with Mrs. Srouji, Congressional sources indicated yesterday that it now has her under investigation for possible criminal charges because of her contacts with the Soviet Embassy official.

In another development, the Justice Department's, Office of Professional Responsibility has started a separate investigation of the Srouji case. The office is the agency within the Justice Department responsible for internal investigations.