

F. B. I. Men Linked To 70's Kidnapping Of Domestic Radical

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The following article was written by Nicholas M. Horrock and is based on reporting by him and by John M. Crewdson.

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WASHINGTON, June 24—Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation kidnapped a radical political figure within the last five years in an attempt to frighten the man and deter his political activity, a well-placed bureau source disclosed today.

That incident, about which few additional details could be learned, involved agents assigned to the F.B.I.'s New York City field office.

The F.B.I. source said the incident could become part of an intensive investigation by the Justice Department into the alleged use of other illegal techniques by the F.B.I., including burglary.

Another source, a former agent assigned to the F.B.I.'s New York office, said he could confirm that kidnappings were directed against domestic radicals as well as foreign espionage agents, raising the possibility that Justice Department lawyers may find evidence to support indictments on those

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charges as well.

The New York Times reported in March 1975 that the bureau had kidnapped and interrogated foreign agents it discovered operating covertly in this country.

These sources said in interviews that kidnapping was also used to get information from or to "disrupt" the activities of figures in domestic radical groups.

One source said he could cite at least one kidnapping that had occurred within the last five years, the period under scrutiny by the Justice Depart-

ment. The source said that two agents had been involved in seizing a member of the radical New Left to "disrupt" activities planned by him. The victim, according to the source, would not know he had been kidnapped by F.B.I. agents and would probably think his abductors were members of radical right opponents of the anti-war movement.

The source said that the two agents had conducted the kidnapping without formal authorization from the bureau and may have done it "on their own." He said the victim was roughed up but was released "without permanent damage."

Grand Jury Cited

Both sources said that this was not an isolated incident over the past decade and that some of the men who had conducted illegal burglaries, and thus would come under the Department of Justice inquiry, knew about or had been involved in such kidnappings.

Meanwhile, a well-placed Government source said that evidence in the investigation of F.B.I. burglaries had already been presented to a grand jury, but he declined to disclose its location.

Another source, with extensive contacts among present and former F.B.I. agents, said that indictments were expected as early as September and might involve an initial group of 28 agents or officials.

"Street agents," however, had little specific knowledge of the pace of the investigation, according to one source. William L. Gardner, the lawyer in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, which is conducting this investigation, has told certain agents that they might have to go before a Federal grand jury.

He has also told agents, sources report, that the Government would grant them immunity from prosecution for their part in burglaries in exchange for their testimony. Mr. Gardner, who heads the Civil Rights Division's criminal section, is investigating violations of laws that prohibit law enforcement officials from depriving a citizen of his civil rights or from making illegal searches and seizures.

Contempt Threat Warning

Mr. Gardner, according to F.B.I. sources, has told agents that they will not face administrative punishment by the bureau if they choose not to testify on the ground that they might incriminate themselves.

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