

JUL 29 1976

**Black Bag Jobs** SFCronicle**FBI Man Tells of His Burglaries**

Washington

An FBI agent has testified that he committed at least 50 burglaries during the 1950s and 1960s with the approval of higher FBI officials in New York and Washington, it was disclosed yesterday.

The sworn statement of agent G

George P. Baxtrum, filed in a \$37 million civil damage suit brought by the Socialist Workers party, represents the first account of so-called "black bag jobs" by a participant.

Baxtrum, who estimated he might have committed as many as 90 break-ins at New York offices of the Socialist Workers party, said he once received an incentive award for the burglaries from John F. Malone, the now-retired head of the FBI's New York field office.

Baxtrum said FBI headquarters in Washington approved written requests for the break-ins. He said he didn't know the names of officials involved.

Baxtrum's account of so-called black bag jobs covered 260 pages of transcript made public in federal court. Under questioning by attorney Herbert Jordan, representing the Socialist Workers party, Baxtrum said his New York section chief — whom he declined to name — first had to approve each break-in.

"His authority was necessary," Baxtrum said.

In addition, he said, "I would, as I recall, prepare a brief memo stating that contact was being planned for a certain date and request the official (the section chief) to obtain authority."

After transmittal to FBI headquarters "the memorandum would be returned to me with a written notation, 'Approval has been obtained,'" Baxtrum said.

FBI Director Clarence Kelley acknowledged last month that addi-

tional break-ins had occurred in the last five years, despite instructions in 1966 from former Director J. Edgar Hoover that "surreptitious entries" should cease.

At least 20 FBI agents are under investigation by the Justice Department in connection with those break-ins, which Kelley said occurred in 1972 and 1973. Those burglaries were reportedly directed at friends and relatives of fugitive members of the radical Weather Underground organization.

Justice Department officials said yesterday, however, that their probe has been expanded to include a July 7 burglary of a Socialist Workers party office in Denver. The SWP said an FBI informer has admitted conducting the burglary.

Baxtrum, in his deposition, said he participated in burglaries as a member of the New York FBI office from 1958 to 1965. He is presently an agent in Milwaukee.

Baxtrum said the break-ins were aimed at examining and photographing papers that would

show "the conspiratorial nature of the party in its continued adherence to Trotskyite-Communist philosophy and its connection with other foreign parties which were also Trotskyites." Financial information and membership lists were also sought, he said.

The burglaries that Baxtrum acknowledged occurred too long ago for him to be prosecuted, authorities said.

Baxtrum said a team of agents conducted most break-ins by picking locks in the early morning hours when SWP offices were vacant.

Information gained from the break-ins would be written up by FBI agents as having come from "a highly confidential source."

*Los Angeles Times*