

7 May 72

✓ 1:00 Investigating the FBI

to 4.30 A program featuring the highlights of a conference held in October of 1971 at Princeton University. The purpose of the conference was to "understand the structure of the FBI and its role and powers in American society." Among the participants at the two day conference were I.F. Stone, former FBI informers, Tom Emerson, and former officials of the Justice Department.

Broadcast by KPFA 23 Apr 72.

Taped all three and a half hours and have finally listened to all of it, in bits and pieces. Will not be keeping the tape because 1) the tape we used was defective and there's so much squealing and noise in parts of it it's very difficult to hear what's being said, and 2) can't imagine there's anything in it that would interest you. Found my attention wandering now and then.

Your interest (your letter of 4/8/72) was in Marshall's exact words and confessions by former FBIers. All there was of Marshall was one rather innocuous question - perhaps two, but I can remember only one. The former agents included Bill Turner and the others sounded much the same. They were Frank Donner (on non-criminal investigations) and FBI informers Robert Tatman (sp?) and David Sommers. Also John Shay and Robert Wall. Other speakers were I.F. Stone (on early history of the FBI) and Robert (I think) Sherrill.

On second thought will hold the tape until we hear whether you want it or not. Frankly don't think it's worth your time.

The papers by the speakers were printed and distributed to the panels and I suppose to the audience too; the speakers just summarized their papers and answered questions.

Also Victor Navasky and Nathan Levin (formerly of Justice)

I'm inclined to accept your judgement and if you feel after reading this that I should still have the tape, I know I'll just have to file it now, for I've that much of more importance stacked up. With Marshall, however, it is his innocuous remarks with all he could have said that interests me. He defended the FBI, which is undoubtedly sincerity, and that also is what interests me, given his role as legal spokesman for the JFK estate, the man who makes the bad decisions and clearly not on the basis of his own knowledge or inquiry or investigations. Somebody has been priming him, and if not the FBI, I suspect old cronies in DJ, whose source are??FBI, ultimately. In the end these papers are to be printed as a book. I doubt they are at all sensational, given the sponsorship and control of the meeting. Wall might, for he was in the political part of the Wash Field Office and worked on "security" matters. I have asked two different reporters to ask him if this included WCom critics but have had no response. I have just stopped to remind one in a note. (I have learned that agents also, not just their finks, dress as and pretend to be hippies, etc. aside from these things, my (dual) interest is in informants, partly for a possible book of personal confessions (I, Spy) by finks and partly because of poss. relevance to study of LHO as informant. Generally, on Pacifica tapes, I think Bill Stein, in main office, not that of local stations, will send me direct dubs if asked, and he knows I have friends ou there who might ask. I think his office is in Berkeley and when he was last here he was beginning a program to make Pacifica tapes available to non-commercials, like college stations. They are putting everything into a computer, so he can retrieve fast. He has been very nice to me from his unhappy days running the SCLC Radio & TV Reports.

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