

Senate report cites spy abuse

Controls sought on FBI, CIA

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Intelligence Committee, reporting U.S. intelligence agencies used illegal burglary, bugging and blackmail to spy on the private lives of Americans, yesterday called for tight controls on the CIA and FBI, particularly by Congress.

In a 396-page report, the committee detailed previously disclosed abuses such as CIA domestic spying, the FBI's COINTELPRO program and electronic eavesdropping by the National Security Agency. It made 96 recommendations to sharply curtail FBI activities and prohibit other agencies from virtually any involvement in domestic investigations.

"All this occurred because intelligence agencies were ordered to break the law, felt they had a right to break the law, and even felt they had a duty ... to break the law," Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn., said. Sen. Richard Schweiker, R-Pa., added congress bears a heavy responsibility for ignoring its constitutional oversight role.

Two Republican members of the committee, Vice Chairman John Tower and Sen. Barry Goldwater,

refused to sign the report, saying the recommendations went far beyond the abuses. Another Republican, Sen. Howard H. Baker, said, "The best thing about this is that it's over. We've finished it without doing undue damage to the agencies of the government."

The recommendations included a new congressional panel to oversee intelligence activities, a virtual end to domestic spying by the CIA, NSA and military intelligence, a requirement for the FBI to obtain warrants for wiretaps or break-ins and the destruction of intelligence files obtained illegally.

The report, which contained few new revelations of government wrongdoing, made the following main findings:

- "Too many people have been spied upon by too many government agencies." FBI headquarters has over 500,000 domestic intelligence files; the CIA opened nearly a quarter million letters; NSA obtained millions of private telegrams; the Army created intelligence files on an estimated 100,000 Americans, and the Internal Revenue Service created dossiers on 11,000 individuals and

groups on the basis of their political beliefs.

- The women's liberation movement was infiltrated by FBI informants. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was the subject of a 25-year investigation. Army intelligence opened files on Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson, D-Ill., and Rep. Abner Mikva, D-Ill., because of their participation in peaceful political meetings.
- Army agents also searched for dissidents at a Halloween party for elementary school children and a conference of priests discussing birth control, while the FBI ordered investigations of every Black Student Union regardless of their involvement in disorders.
- "Covert action programs have been used to disrupt the lawful political activities of individual Americans and groups and to discredit them, using dangerous and degrading tactics which are abhorrent in a free and decent society."

"The most sweeping domestic intelligence surveillance programs have produced surprisingly few useful results." Between 1960 and 1974 the FBI conducted over 500,000 investigations of persons suspected of being subversives, "yet not a single individual or group has been prosecuted." The General Accounting Office estimated that of more than 17,000 FBI domestic intelligence investigations in 1974, "only 1.3 per cent resulted in prosecution and conviction."

Senior officials frequently ignored the possible illegality or unconstitutionality of intelligence-gathering programs and occasionally carried out activities they knew to be illegal. William Sullivan, who for 10 years headed the FBI's intelligence division, told the committee "never once did I hear anybody, including myself, rise the question: 'Is this course of action which we have agreed upon lawful, is it legal, is it ethical or moral?'" An internal FBI memo discussing the hundreds of break-ins, or "black bag jobs," conducted the bureau stated that the technique was clearly illegal.

Report accuses FBI of planting stories

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The FBI often planted derogatory news stories — anonymously or through "friendly" reporters — about people or groups it opposed, the Senate Intelligence Committee reported yesterday.

"The FBI attempted to influence public opinion by supplying information or articles to 'confidential sources' in the news," the report said.

"Typically, a local FBI

agent would provide information to a 'friendly news source' on the condition that the bureau's interest in these matters is to be kept in the strictest confidence."

It said the targets included the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights movement in general and Vietnam war opponents.

Committee members expressed concern over such media manipulation by intelligence agencies, but said

they could do little to prevent it.

"The responsibility lies primarily with the press itself as to whether the press is going to be used in this manner," said Sen. Walter Huddleston, D-Ky.

In a section on media manipulation, the report said the FBI's Crime Record Division "was responsible for covert liaison with the media to advance two main intelligence ob-

jectives:

- "1 — Providing derogatory information to the media intended to generally discredit the activities or ideas of targeted groups or individuals.
- "And 2 — disseminating unfavorable articles, news releases, and background information in order to disrupt particular activities."

It said the "impact" of such articles "is generally difficult to measure, although in some

cases there are fairly direct connections to injury to the target."

"Among a variety of examples of FBI media efforts, the report said the bureau ordered "field offices to gather information which would disprove allegations by the liberal press, the forces on the left" that the Chicago police used undue force against demonstrators at the 1968 Democratic Convention."

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