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New York, N.Y. 10014

February 7, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

The SWP and YSA suit against government spying and harassment has entered a new and important phase. This new stage of the case requires a major shift in the level of our support activities on behalf of the Political Rights Defense Fund.

One factor in this new situation is that the legal battle around the YSA convention showed that the suit raises legal issues which are being taken seriously by the federal courts. This means that there will not be an early dismissal of the suit, and the lawyers feel that there is a greatly increased likelihood of a major political trial.

Judge Griesa has ordered the government to turn over all the files of all the defendant agencies on actions against the SWP and YSA. This means that we can expect further exposure of government crimes against the SWP and YSA. All this material is being offered to the various congressional committees investigating the CIA and FBI and some of them may be willing to take testimony from representatives of the SWP and YSA. Already, PRDF representatives have met with and received a favorable response from the staff counsel of the House subcommittee that will be conducting hearings into the FBI domestic surveillance and disruption. The subcommittee is headed by Congressman Don Edwards.

Another factor is that the unprecedented national publicity given the revelation of FBI attacks on Morris Starsky shows the continuing high level of interest in "Watergate-type" crimes against opponents of the government. The release of the documents of the FBI attacks was covered by all three national TV network evening news shows, resulted in two major articles and an editorial in the New York Times, a major article in the Washington Post and coverage in at least dozens of other papers around the country. The nationally syndicated cartoonist Herblock did an editorial cartoon attacking the FBI on the Starsky case.

These developments all greatly increase the possibility of building support for the SWP and YSA suit through the Political Rights Defense Fund. The SWP and YSA case has clearly become the central response of the radical movement to the government's spying and disruption.

In order to respond to this new situation PRDF is taking the following steps:

- 1) adding Sherry Smith and Ove Aspoy to its national staff.
- 2) rapidly stepping up its fundraising activities, since the increased legal activity in the suit has dramatically increased the legal expenses. These tens of thousands of dollars in legal expenses can prove to be an obstacle to effective prosecution of the suit if they are not met promptly and in full.
- 3) urging local PRDF supporters to use the recent publicity for the case to obtain more sponsors for PRDF, and especially to increase the fundraising activity in each area. Such fundraising activities

can include mailings to university faculties, mailings to supporters of previous antiwar or similar activities, appeals to local unions for sponsorship and financial support, fundraising cocktail parties, benefit film showings or other benefit events, direct telephone or personal appeals to individual civil libertarians or other potential donors, and approaches to local foundations that might consider support to the suit.

To help in the process of building support to the suit, PRDF literature should be made available at major political events in each area, and PRDF tables should be set up when they might help to broaden sponsorship or financial support for the case.

4) organizing more speaking engagements to help publicize the case and raise money. Leonard Boudin, the well known constitutional lawyer in charge of the legal work for the case, and Dr. Morris Star-sky, victim of the first published FBI "COINTELPRO," are available to speak on selected occasions. Both of these speakers should be able to draw very large honoraria, and fundraising benefits could be timed to coincide with the visit of either person to an area. Mem-bers of the PRDF staff are also available for honoraria engagements. In all these instances, the honoraria will help meet the legal ex-penses of the case.

A certain lag in PRDF support activities developed in many areas following the Nixon resignation. To overcome this lag and to take advantage of the current opportunities, every branch should have a person assigned to head up our support work for the suit.

The name of this person should be sent to the PRDF national of-fice along with a report of plans for local support activities.

The PRDF national office will be in touch with local areas to discuss specific fundraising goals.

Comradely,

Doug Jenness

Doug Jenness
National Office

F.B.I. Counterintelligence Is Under G.A.O. Scrutiny

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29—Representative Don Edwards, Democrat of California, said today that he had ordered an investigation by the General Accounting Office into the counterintelligence programs of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The investigation was ordered in Mr. Edwards's capacity as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Constitutional Rights and is already under way, the Representative said. G.A.O. investigators are working in the bureau's headquarters in Washington and in 10 major field offices, Mr. Edwards said.

Meanwhile, the Presidential press secretary, Ron Nessen, said that President Ford had disavowed the type of illegal counterintelligence activity described in an article today in The New York Times about the bureau's harassment of a professor at Arizona State University in 1970.

Ford View Presented

Mr. Nessen told newsmen that although he could not vouch for or deny the accuracy of the article, "I can say this President is not responsible for what may or may not have happened before . . . and has made very clear that he expects Government agencies to live up to standards of conduct he has spelled out."

Mr. Nessen said that the President had "communicated to agencies through informal talks that they should not violate the law and he expects them to live up to his expectations that they act in an ethical way."

The civil rights and constitutional rights subcommittee is conducting a widespread investigation of both the counterintelligence programs, known as "Cointelpro," and the F.B.I.'s general operations.

Mr. Edwards, whose subcommittee is investigating the harassment incident in which F.B.I. agents attempted to discredit a former Arizona State professor, Morris J. Starsky, has drawn a sharp difference between customary F.B.I. practices and the techniques used in "Cointelpro."

Mr. Edwards, a former F.B.I. agent, said that these were bureau programs "where private citizens and private organizations, engaged in legal political activities, have been placed under surveillance, have had dossiers prepared about them, and indeed have been illegally disrupted and harassed by the F.B.I."

Mr. Edwards said the issue was much larger than whether or not files were maintained on



United Press International

Morris J. Starsky, a former Arizona State professor, discussing F.B.I. harassment yesterday.

members of Congress.

At issue, he said, "is the entire practice of domestic intel-

ligence by the F.B.I., including government surveillance of private persons or organizations, record-keeping of their speech and activities and the dissemination thereof."

Staff aides of the subcommittee said that they had received and were checking numerous reports from citizens who believed they may have been wrongfully harassed by the F.B.I. and from others who claimed the bureau had recruited them for political undercover work.

Among the matters now under staff investigation are charges by the Socialist Workers party and the Young Socialist Alliance that the tactics of disruption used in "Cointelpro" are still being used by the bureau under other guises. When the first official confirmation of "Cointelpro" came in November, 1974, it was described as an F.B.I. program begun in 1956 and discontinued in 1971.

But Cathy Perkus, a spokesman for the Political Rights Defense Fund, said that the fund had received "Cointelpro" documents that made it appear

that the program had only been discontinued as a single operation under that name.

In a 1971 F.B.I. memorandum from the man who was its intelligence chief, Charles D. Brennan, to the man who was then second in command in the bureau, William C. Sullivan, it is noted that though "Cointelpro" is to be discontinued, "in exceptional instances where counterintelligence action is warranted, it will be considered on a highly selective individual basis with tight procedures to insure absolute secrecy."

The bureau has not come under criticism for its investigations or interviews, but for an alleged active policy of trying to "disrupt" various groups on the domestic left and right. The case of Dr. Starsky involved the sending of an anonymous letter to a college committee studying whether he should be retained as a professor. The letter was derogatory in nature and the F.B.I.'s internal memorandums indicated that it had been sent to "tarnish" his professional reputation because of his support of anti-Vietnam war causes.

PR Political Rights
DF Defense Fund

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1975

Documents Reveal FBI Campaign to Get Professor Fired

By Howard Armstrong
Special to The Washington Post

PHOENIX—The Federal Bureau of Investigation apparently thought its counterintelligence efforts against a socialist professor here were successful in 1970 because it later said his reputation and standing in the academic community had been "greatly tarnished."

FBI documents released Tuesday to Dr. Morris Starsky, a former Arizona State University philosophy professor, reveal a campaign at least two years long by the FBI to get Starsky dismissed and to disrupt New Left activities at the university between 1968 and 1970.

They show how Starsky was chosen as a vulnerable target in the first documented case of harassment of a private citizen by the FBI's Counterintelligence Program, known in the agency as COINTELPRO.

Starsky, 41, was fired by the state board of regents in Phoenix had sent an anonymous letter discrediting him to a five-member university faculty committee that was weighing whether he should be dismissed.

However, it is difficult to determine to what extent the letter influenced the firing.

Dr. Ross Rice, an ASU political science professor who was chairman of the review committee, said the committee recommended against

firing Starsky and that the FBI letter didn't influence the committee because committee members agreed that anonymous material couldn't be considered.

Ross added, "We had no reason to think at the time it (the letter) could have emanated from the FBI."

The regents, however, rejected the Ross committee's recommendation and yielded to pressure from legislators who demanded Starsky be fired because he had dismissed a class at ASU so he could speak to student protesters at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Dr. Paul Singer, chairman of the board of regents when Starsky was fired, said Thursday the regents were "absolutely not aware" of the FBI letter when their action was taken.

"I've never heard of it until now, and I'm as astonished as anyone else," said Singer.

Starsky contends his firing has prevented him from keeping teaching jobs at a California university and at a California college. He is now doing legal research for a living in Los Angeles, he said. His appeal to be reinstated at ASU is now before the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

The FBI documents were released to Starsky by Attorney General William B. Saxbe after the former professor appealed for their release under the Freedom of

Information Act.

Saxbe said in a letter to Starsky's attorney, Alan M. Kyman of Phoenix, that four COINTELPRO documents on Starsky were withheld by the FBI.

Also among the released documents are several memoranda sent by special agents in charge of the FBI's Phoenix field office to then-Director J. Edgar Hoover, recommending that COINTELPRO move against Starsky, and a communique from Hoover's office authorizing the anonymous letter to be sent.

All the memoranda were heavily edited to delete names of apparent FBI informers and cooperating agencies.

The latest of the memoranda released, dated June 30, 1970, 20 days after Starsky's firing, said some person or organization, whose name had been deleted, "advised that the various charges against Starsky brought out during this hearing and other anonymous charges received by the faculty committee members greatly tarnished Starsky's reputation and standing in the academic community."

Starsky, a self-proclaimed socialist, aroused the anger of conservative associates and others in Arizona for organizing anti-Vietnam war teach-ins at ASU and anti-draft activities and for his membership in the Socialist

Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. He said here Wednesday that the partial disclosure of his file by the FBI significantly demonstrates the "insidious methods" used by the agency to violate the civil rights of political dissidents in America.

He and Kyman said they plan legal action to force disclosure of the balance of the FBI's file on him.

The earliest of the documents released by Saxbe, dated May 31, 1968, was addressed to Hoover by John P. Mull Jr., special agent then in charge in Phoenix. It read, in part:

"It is apparent that New Left organizations and activities in the Phoenix metropolitan area have received their inspiration and leadership almost exclusively from the members of the faculty in the department of philosophy at Arizona State University, chiefly Assistant Prof. Morris J. Starsky. The most logical targets for potential counter-intelligence action locally are therefore pretty obvious."

A subsequent memo from Mull to Hoover, dated July 1, 1968, said Starsky's dismissal from ASU "could be expected to disrupt New Left organizations at Arizona State University and in the Phoenix area generally."

Three months later, another Mull memo to Hoover said Starsky "has continued to spotlight himself as a target for counter-intelligence

action" by being named with his wife, Pamela, as presidential electors for the Socialist Workers Party. The memo said that a recommendation for counterintelligence action would be submitted by separate letter.

After the faculty committee began reviewing charges against Starsky in April, 1970, Special Agent in Charge Paul H. Fields wrote Hoover, detailing Starsky's troubles with both his opponents and some members of the New Left community at the university. He asked permission to send the anonymous letter to the faculty committee.

A communique dated April 24, 1970, from the FBI director to Fields granted the permission.

The anonymous letter alleged that Starsky had learned of an attempted suicide by one of his close campus co-workers, and, feeling that the man no longer could be trusted, demanded the return of Socialist literature. When he refused, the letter continued, Starsky and three others "invaded" his apartment and threatened to have him beaten "unmercifully."

"Where did Starsky learn of the effectiveness of smashing into a person's house at 2 a.m.?" the FBI's anonymous letter asked. "Also, of utilizing four persons to threaten the health or life of someone? Is this an example of academic socialism? Should the ASU student body enjoy the guidance of such an instructor?"

It seems to me that this type of activity is something that Himmler or Beria could attempt with pride. If Starsky did not enjoy the prestige and sanctuary of his position, he would be properly punished for such a totalitarian venture."

The letter was signed "A concerned ASU alumnus." In the June 30, 1970, memo to Hoover, Special Agent in Charge Robert E. Gebhardt said, "New Left activities in the Phoenix division are largely dormant at the present time and it seems unlikely that there will be any significant New Left activity in this area during July and August."

It added that Starsky had been fired following the mailing of the anonymous letter, and that "in the event his case becomes a cause celebre for the New Left or the Socialist Workers Party on the ASU campus in the near future, it will be evaluated for possible counterintelligence action."

Gebhardt, now an assistant to the FBI director in Washington, said "I don't recall any of it," when queried about the Starsky case.

Mull and Fields could not be located for comment.

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EDITORIAL

The New York Times

WEDNESDAY-FEBRUARY 5, 1975

Poison-Pert Police

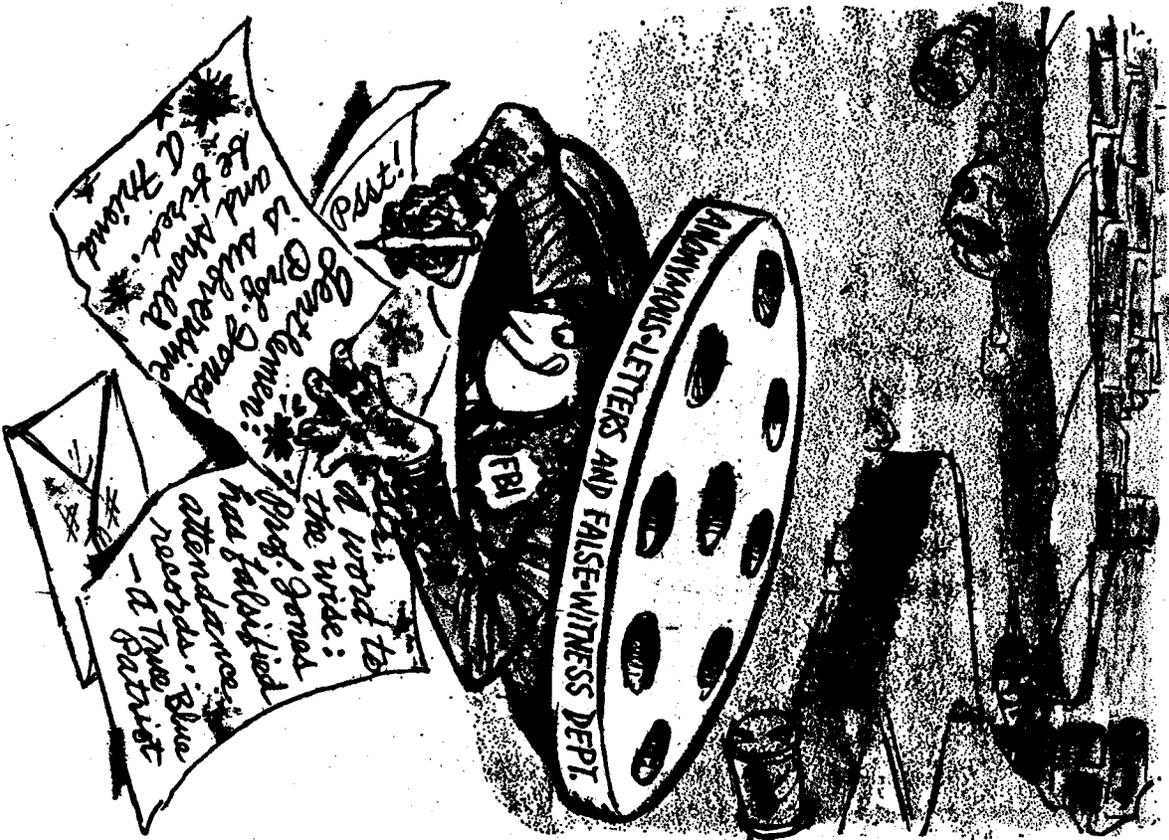
Former Attorney General Saxbe has released evidence that the Federal Bureau of Investigation engaged in a deliberate campaign of defamation against a radical professor at Arizona State University. The clandestine efforts, which included the writing of anonymous letters to a faculty committee dealing with the teacher's professional future, continued for a period of two years, between 1968 and 1970. They appear to have had the personal approval of the late F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Dr. Morris Starsky, philosophy professor, anti-war activist and member of the Socialist Workers Party, who was the target of these attacks, was ultimately dismissed by the Arizona State Board of Regents, against the faculty committee's recommendations. Denials by a spokesman for the Regents of any link between the poison-pen letters and the firing are irrelevant to any appraisal of the F.B.I. action. What matters is that the bureau appears to have engaged in an illegal and despicable act of faceless persecution and slander.

Even as a single aberration, the acts against Professor Starsky would be intolerable. But beyond one professor's right to justice lurks the question of how many more dissident faculty members may have been similar targets. Dr. Starsky was, by all accounts, hardly a figure of great personal influence or national visibility. If the F.B.I. found it necessary to take "counterintelligence" action against him, it is reasonable to suspect that his case may not have been unique. As Congress investigates the abuses of domestic intelligence, it has a special responsibility to seek full disclosure of, and adequate reparation for, any similar episodes of character assassination.

THE WASHINGTON POST
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1975

Undercover Work



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(OVER FOR NEWS STORY)