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## An Ex-FBI Exec Gets a Warning

By MARGARET GENTRY

WASHINGTON (AP) federal court is considering what to do about a Justice Department threat to cut off free legal services to former Assistant FBI Director William C. Sullivan if he continues to talk with a group suing the FBI.

The department action was disclosed in an affidavit submitted to U.S. District Court in New York by Syd Stapleton, national secretary of the Political Rights Defense Fund. The affidavit was made available to reporters

here yesterday.

The fund is assisting the Socialist Workers Party in its \$27 million damage suit against the FBI for alleged illegal political harassment.

Stapleton said Sullivan, former supervisor of FBI domestic intelligence, is a potential witness in the suit. Stapleton said he and the party's attorney, Herbert Jordon, want to question Sullivan.

The affidavit said Stapleton met with Sullivan in October. Sullivan agreed to a second meeting this month, but canceled the talks after his private attorney, Joseph Casey of Washington, relayed a message from Justice Department officials, the affidavit said.

Called 'Furious'

"The message was that the department was 'furious'; to learn of Mr. Sullivan's pre-vious meeting with me, that Mr. Sullivan must not meet with me again, and that, if he did meet with me again, the Department of Justice would cut off the legal assistance being provided to him without charge by the government in other cases," Stapleton said.

The department routinely represents former govern-ment officials in civil damage suits alleging wrongdoing while they were in office. Sullivan is not a defendant in the Socialist Workers suit so department is not representing him in any proceeding in that case.

However, the affidavit quoted Sullivan as saying

Edward S. Christenbury as the department lawyer who relayed the threat to Sulli-

van's attorney.
Christenbury declined comment. Reached by telephone, Mrs. Sullivan said her husband was referring questions to his lawyer.

In a statement, Stapleton said the department trying to gag one of the few people who have both the knowledge and willingness to shed some light" on the political harassment operations.

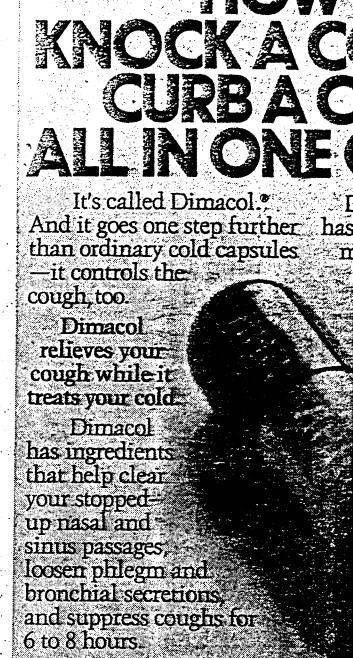
"This outrageous attempt to stifle the voice of William C. Sullivan can only help cover up the crimes of the FBI," he asserted.

According to the affidavit, the Justice Department officials claim a federal regulation would prohibit Sullivan from disclosing information about FBI activities. The regulation prohibits former Justice Department employes from disclosing information about department activities in response to a court order without approval of the attorney general or other department officials.

Stapleton argued that the regulation does not apply because no court order is involved.

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