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This is the UPI story on the interview with Swearingen. I am almost certain there was only one story. However, all we have are the versions as printed by some newspapers, which are undoubtedly shortened from the story as it went over the wires.

I am trying to find out who in UPI wrote the story so we can check the accuracy of the quotes attributed by the nealyites. Someone should also check the quotes in the latest Newsline against the quotes cited earlier. I have the impression there are more quotes than there were before.

Larry

The New Haven Register
NEW HAVEN, CONN.
D. 101,319 SUN. 135,055

DEC 10 1978

Spiller

Ex-Agent Sets Off Investigation

Massive FBI 'Cover-Up' Charged

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The FBI has engaged in a systematic "cover-up" of the extent of its illegal break-ins, its use of thousands of phony informant files and a number of instances of fraud and corruption within the bureau, a retired agent charges.

The Justice Department has been investigating for more than six months a broad range of 25 allegations by the former agent, including his charges that a few FBI agents pocketed money intended for their fictitious informants, sources said.

The agent, who asked that his name be withheld, outlined his charges and gave his version of the inner workings of the FBI over the last three decades in four hours of taped recorded interviews with UPI.

Among his major allegations:

—Pressure from superiors stirred FBI agents for years to invent thousands of fake informants, and agents sometimes kept for themselves cash allotted for the informants. The massive phony files also were used at budget time to deceive Congress into believing the FBI had a heavier caseload than it really had.

—Attorney General Griffin Bell may be willing to sacrifice \$40 million in taxpayers' money to the Socialist Workers Party in a civil suit because he wants to avoid revealing the bureau's phony informant system and its infiltration of the SWP's highest offices.

(The Justice Department has said it may default in the lawsuit, rather than yield to a federal judge's order that it release the names of 18 SWP informants. It said to do so would threaten the bureau's ability to insure informants' confidentiality in the future.)

—The bureau committed upwards of 20,000 illegal break-ins or "bag jobs" in the last three decades at the offices and homes of political activists. The FBI has told Congress it knew of 238 break-ins of targets considered national security threats and of "anonymous others" against three other types of targets.

UPI correspondents independently verified the identity of the agent, who worked for the FBI for nearly 30 years. It was learned the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility has been investigating his allegations, some of them involving potential criminal wrongdoing, since April.

Citing recent reforms by the agency, the agent said:

"Bag jobs are not going on now. The COINTEL (the bureau's word for its domestic disruption and counterintelligence efforts during the 1960s) is not going on. But now, everyone is lying about it ... just to save themselves and the bureau's image."

He said the "cover-up" of the bureau's activities appeared to extend to the recent investigation of FBI break-ins used in a hunt for fugitive members of the radical Weather Underground in the early 1970s.

The agent, who was assigned to offices in several large cities over the years, said two FBI officials approached him in June 1974, suggesting that if he was called before a grand jury, he deny having a role in these break-ins.

He said he also overheard the head of an FBI field office discuss on the telephone with a superior at headquarters in Washington the

possibility of "getting all of the agents together to tell the same story."

FBI Director William Webster, culminating a 2 1/2-year investigation of the unauthorized break-ins, wiretaps and mail-openings, fired two FBI agents last week and disciplined four others.

He exonerated 59 agents who he concluded were acting on orders from above. Former FBI Director L. Patrick Gray and two of his aides face a January trial on charges they approved the surveillance.

Webster said a second internal investigation is under way into charges the FBI withheld information from Congress and the General Accounting Office about the Weatherman break-ins.

The retired agent said of the Justice Department's earlier disclosure of the 238 break-ins: "I did more bag jobs than that report."

"Bag jobs" were considered a routine investigative technique. "You bag whatever you have to bag," he said.

The agent also charged:

—Several top officials of a field office and dozens of agents accepted gifts ranging from \$400 watches to clock radios from a figure linked to organized crime in 1973, following an investigation of the kidnap-murder of the mobster's daughter.

—One FBI office ran football and basketball pools, set up with odds gleaned by the gambling agent from a wiretap.

—In 1975, bureau officials disclosed that 65 percent of agents were taking their government cars home at night for their personal use, but did not discourage the practice because they felt "agents deserved a little more than what they were getting."