Car Burnings and Assaults on Radicals Linked to F.B.I. Agents in Last 5 Years

The following article was written by Nicholas M. Horrock and is based upon reporting by him and John M. Crewdon.

WASHINGTON, July 10—Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation committed widespread acts of unauthorized lawlessness, including the burning of automobiles, assaults and illegal wiretapping, during internal security investigations in the last five years, law enforcement sources said today.

These sources, who are deeply familiar with the bureau’s domestic security operations, said that they believed the current Department of Justice investigation of alleged burglaries by agents would uncover other wrongdoing because techniques of harassment and illegal investigative methods were used by the same men who were committing the burglaries.

These sources said that agents were doing things such as roughing up antiwar radicals or placing illegal wiretaps—the “suicide” or “wildcat” taps by agents—because they were under “tremendous pressure” to halt bombings and snare fugitives in the early 1970’s.

Militant antiwar activists at Queens College in Flushing were one target of illegal and unauthorized electronic surveillance, these sources said.

Clarence M. Kelley, director of the F.B.I., said in a statement to The New York Times today that he had “no information indicating that these allegations are true.

“However,” he continued, “as in all allegations by bureau employees this will be looked into and if evidence is found to substantiate the allegations, actions will be taken against the employees involved.

“It is hoped that anyone having knowledge of these matters will come forth because without their assistance the investigation is much more difficult,” Mr. Kelley said.

Agents placed illegal “wildcat” telephone taps and electronic bugs, the sources said, after bureau offices specifically forbade the activity because they were often the best methods of getting intelligence on militant leftist activity.

Agents would disguise the source of the information in their reports to make it appear that it came from live informants, the sources said.

One source said, however, that he believed that supervisors F.B.I. personnel were “aware that surveillance was coming from guilty pleas and wanted his right to a speedy trial.

that would permit agents to make entries or get information without being connected with the F.B.I.

One source said that he had often posed as a sanitation inspector to enter and search a premises without a warrant. He obtained genuine credentials from the Sanitation Department, he said.

These sources said that the main use of burglaries in the 1972-1973 period was to try to locate agents, a source said, would gather extensive background information on the habits and activities of persons whose homes were to be burglarized. This was partly to help the agent avoid being surprised while in the home and partly so he could recognize unusual items in the house that might be leads to one of the fugitives.

The source said, for instance, that if the agents had established that the owner of a home did not drink and a matchbook from a bar was found in a burglary they would stake out the bar and see if the fugitive might come in. Agents, he said, also dusted for fingerprints, took samples of dirt from the bottom of bathtubs, and small switches of clothing if they thought the items might establish that a fugitive had been in the house and could lead to the area of the country in which he might be hiding.

Federal Government sources said that in the current investigation of the burglaries the Justice Department may review F.B.I. laboratory transmittals to see if the reports pinpoint any burglary.

One source said that there was no pattern on whether agents carried their bureau identification or a gun during burglaries. This source said it was his practice to make the entry without his identification but to carry a “small caliber nonregulation pistol in case he unexpectedly encountered a dog.

He would not have shot a person if he had been surprised.

Other agents did not carry guns, he said, because they were concerned about laws that carried stiffer burglary penalties if the burglar is armed.

This source said he never heard of an agent’s being arrested or shot while making an illegal entry but said that occasionally agents who had been surprised had to knock someone down or fight to get away.

Carswell Pleads Not Guilty To Homosexuality Charge

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 9 (AP)—G. Harrold Carswell, the former United States Supreme Court nominee, pleaded not guilty today to charges of battery and attempting a homosexual act with a policeman.

Mr. Carswell’s plea was filed by his defense attorney, Murray Wadsworth, at a hearing before Leon County Judge Hal McClammar. Mr. Carswell, who is being treated at a Tallahassee hospital for a nervous condition, did not attend.

Judge McClammar granted a delay of Mr. Carswell’s trial on the two misdemeanor charges until the former Federal judge’s physician determines that Mr. Carswell is fit to appear in court.

Speaking for Mr. Carswell, Mr. Wadsworth filed the not guilty plea and waived his right to a speedy trial.