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July 31, 2008

Subject: MONOGRAPH: STOOL PIGEON OR LOYAL
CITIZEN PART II
FOIPA No. 1110970- 000

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Table with 3 columns: Section 552, Section 552a, and Section 552a. Rows list various exemption codes such as (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(7)(A-F), (b)(8), (b)(9), (d)(5), (j)(2), (k)(1-7).

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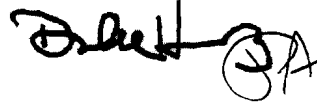
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See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy" followed by a circled "SA".

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

In response to your Freedom of Information Act request to FBI Headquarters, enclosed is a processed copy of Monograph: Stool Pigeon or Loyal Citizen Part II.

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SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
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SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
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- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

STOOL PIGEON OR LOYAL CITIZEN?

August 1952

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
John Edgar Hoover, Director

52 - N135

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Introduction</u>	i
<u>The Phrase "Stool Pigeon" Defined</u>	1
<u>Centuries Old</u>	4
<u>Soviet Russia Approves and Fosters</u>	5
<u>Communists Inform on Pro-Nazis and Fascists</u>	6
<u>Communists Inform Within Their Party</u>	7
<u>For Whom Should This Be Done?</u>	8
<u>The Moral Question</u>	9
<u>The Good Citizen Informs</u>	11

INTRODUCTION

This brief paper is more suggestive than it is declarative. It is believed it will be more useful in this form. The subject is too complex and fluid for one to write in a positive, dogmatic manner.

The main purpose is to set forth some ideas as to how to overcome (1) the accusation that any person who furnishes information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation is a "stool pigeon"; and (2) how to meet the objection of a potential informant that, although he is becoming disillusioned with Communism, he does not want to serve as a "stool pigeon."

The bare core or essence of these ideas is delineated in this paper. Much more could be written but will not be at this time for two reasons: (1) it would be mainly an elaboration upon the themes considered here; hence a certain amount of repetition would necessarily be involved; and (2) a longer and more involved dissertation might tend to lessen your own inclination to think hard about these ideas and ways and means by which they can be most effectively employed by you.

Nothing will take the place of hard, consistent and penetrating thought on your own part as to how these ideas can be related to your own individual cases. What personal touch can you give them? How

THE PHRASE "STOOL PIGEON" DEFINED

The phrase "stool pigeon," as used by Communists to describe persons who furnish truthful information about Communism, is a distortion of its technically correct meaning. It is a distortion because in every instance Communists give an evil, derogatory twist to the term, picturing it as being wholly undesirable. This need not be so at all.

According to the authoritative Webster's International Dictionary, the word "stool pigeon" has three distinct meanings. They are as follows:

- "(a) A pigeon used as a decoy to draw others within the net. (b) Hence, a person used as a decoy for others; exp., one who unofficially acts as a spy for the police. (c) In cardsharpping, one who sits behind the victim and signals his hand to a confederate who is in the game."

The only portion of this definition which relates to our work is (b) which describes a "stool pigeon" as "one who unofficially acts as a spy for the police." The Dictionary at no time alludes to this act as being undesirable, bad or reprehensible. The Communists are the ones who place the "smear" and the foul connotation on the word. This is an unwarranted addition. Webster's Dictionary does not

in any way indicate that spying for the police should not be done. In fact, the word "spy," as defined by Webster's Dictionary, does not take on any evil overtones. Phrases used to describe spying include: "to view, inspect and examine secretly; to gain sight of. . . ; 'look about you with your eyes. . . ' ; to discover by close search or examination. "

The phrase "stool pigeon" per se, therefore, is not a reprehensible phrase reflecting evil on the part of the person to whom it is applied.

What makes the phrase "stool pigeon" reprehensible and the person to whom it applies good or bad in the eyes of the public are the circumstances surrounding its use and the motivation underlying the course of action which leads to it.

If, for example, a person is motivated into spying, viewing and stool pigeoning to confederates about his neighbor in order to learn when his neighbor leaves his home so that he may burglarize it and steal, then the circumstances and motivation make this spying, inspecting and stool pigeoning an evil thing.

On the other hand, the circumstances are different if a person knows his neighbor is away and he hears noises within his neighbor's home during the middle of the night and, as a result of his spying, viewing and stool pigeoning to the police that the house is being burglarized, the

police arrive quickly and save his neighbor's property from thieves. On such an occasion, spying (e. g. , viewing, inspecting) and "stool pigeoning" (e. g. , conveying of information, informing) is a good thing. It protects property rights and helps to maintain law and order. It can even save human lives.

The same idea holds true when a man spies, views, stool pigeons or informs either against his own nation, citizens, neighbors and friends or for his own nation, citizens, neighbors and friends. To stool pigeon against is an evil thing; it is to poison the land that gave you birth, reared and fed you. It is ingratitude. To stool pigeon for is a good thing; it is to return good with good, kindness with kindness, life with life. It is gratitude.

The phrase "stool pigeon," then, in itself is a neutral phrase. And Communists are guilty of a gross distortion when they describe it in any other way. It is not the phrase per se but the use of it which determines its reprehensible or commendable character. It is the motivation and circumstances surrounding the cause of action which are decisive in separating use from abuse. Further, contingent upon the factors just mentioned, stool pigeoning can be an excellent means for achieving an excellent end. When both the means and the end are sound, there can be no serious objection raised.

CENTURIES OLD

The Communists are wholly wrong in implying that spying and stool pigeoning have commenced with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that it is an FBI "brain child."

Even in the Old Testament we learn that Moses considered it just and necessary to send men into the "Promised Land of Canaan" to develop truthful information needed for worth-while purposes--this was about 1480 B. C. On returning after some forty days, they issued their reports.

Herodotus portrays in Book V of his work Persian Wars spying and stool pigeoning processes used around 500 B. C. Scipio Africanus, Hannibal, Alfred the Great and many others like them down through the centuries have all engaged in spying, or the gathering of pertinent information, and in stool pigeoning, or the conveying of this information to those who should have it. There is, then, contrary to the Communist charge, nothing new about it, nothing about it which begins with the FBI. It has been as much a part of man from the beginning as have been his ears and eyes.

With this past ignored, Communists and their press falsely say to the public that spying and stool pigeoning never had any place in American history; hence, it should not be engaged in today.

This statement is false. Nathan Hale is one of our national heroes precisely because he did spy to convey information from right motivation and under correct conditions. Further, it is a mark of his greatness and one of the bright spots in American history when he expressed the sentiment: "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country." Here the issue with Hale became a moral one. To Hale both the means and the end were good and worth sacrificing his life.

If a man like Nathan Hale could willingly give his life to save his country, an average citizen should be willing to give information to his country for its preservation.

SOVIET RUSSIA APPROVES AND FOSTERS

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) from the very beginning engaged in spying and stool pigeoning with full approval and encouragement given by all its leaders. Joseph Stalin has even boasted that he engaged in this activity himself, directly and systematically.

When the Communist Party in Russia was victorious in the Revolution of 1917, it now had an entire nation at its disposal. As a result, it nationalized spying and stool pigeoning to the point where now it extends throughout all of Russia and has become an integral and vital part of both Soviet domestic and foreign policies. It is an organ of administration.

It even extends beyond Soviet Russia.

In this connection the following authoritative Communist quotation is most illuminating:

"As for our army, punitive organs, and intelligence service, their edge is no longer turned to the inside of the country but to the outside, against external enemies."

Joseph Stalin, From Socialism to Communism in the Soviet Union, p. 57.

Stalin could have more accurately stated that the spying and stool pigeoning related to his intelligence service no longer applies only or exclusively to the domestic scene but to the foreign one also. However, he does make the point clear enough that Russia approves and fosters this procedure.

COMMUNISTS INFORM ON PRO-NAZIS AND FASCISTS

American Communists say they are opposed to spying and stool pigeoning as a matter of principle.

This is false. As we have seen, the principle is accepted by the Party itself and applied within the Party. More important still, Communists and pro-Communists were willing, and rightly so, to engage in spying and stool pigeoning against the pro-Nazis and fascists of the United States during the thirties and early forties, furnishing the information to the FBI and related governmental agencies.

Further, the Communists approved of the evidence developed through informants in convicting such a native fascist as William Dudley Pelley. They approve of this same process today which leads to the conviction of Ku Klux Klan law violators.

Communists in foreign nations, especially in the French resistance movement and in the old German Communist underground, have boasted of their spying and stool pigeoning proclivities. They look upon them proudly.

COMMUNISTS INFORM WITHIN THEIR PARTY

Members of the Communist Party, USA, are expected to spy on each other and to engage in stool pigeoning for the purpose of reporting to recognized Party authorities thoughts, statements, conversations and activities of fellow members which may be inimical to the methods, plans, programs and goals of the Party. Today they go so far as to enter one another's apartments, go through their personal possessions and report (e. g., stool pigeon) the results. As one Communist said: "We must do this if we are to complete the revolution of 1776."

These circumstances and this kind of motivation do make spying and stool pigeoning reprehensible. It is this and related types which

we must renounce. But Communists do not renounce them. They insist quite erroneously, however, that we are doing what in fact they alone do. This might be described as a good example of psychological projection.

FOR WHOM SHOULD THIS BE DONE?

American Communists are expected, generally speaking, to be spies and stool pigeons for Soviet Russia. Is it not far better for them to serve the United States in this capacity when necessary?

Today there is a vast ideological and social conflict in progress throughout the world. As the Communists themselves assert, the world is divided into two fundamentally different and opposing camps, only one of which will survive. Any conflict of this nature makes spying and stool pigeoning as necessary as bread and butter; in fact, without it we here in the United States may not have sufficient bread and butter. Therefore, the choice for a Communist is not between spying and not spying. Would that it were. But we must be realistic. The truth is the only choice for an American Communist is to spy and convey information for Soviet Russia or for his own nation, the land of his birth, the United States. The former course of action is traitorous, the latter patriotic. The dissimilar circumstances and motivation in each instance condition

the character of his modus operandi.

THE MORAL QUESTION

The fact that a sincere potential informant raises the "stool pigeon" issue can be encouraging, for it can mean that he has reached an intellectual break with Communism and is now restrained only by the ethical considerations of what he, as a disaffected Communist, ought to do. It now is a moral question. At the very least he is having doubts which can lead to the moral question.

Whittaker Chambers, in his book Witness, has a forceful argument on this issue:

"It is practically impossible for a man who joins the Communist Party for the purpose of correcting an evil condition of the World not to turn against the party the force of the same purpose when experience convinces him that Communism is a greater evil." (Underlining supplied) (p. 64)

Thus the more idealistic ones, having rejected the philosophy and the political form of Communism, have the greatest incentive to try to right the wrongs in which they participated. They are still crusaders at heart. Its expression should be positive.

The opportunists and genuine Communists are not persuaded by moral argument in any form, however, and the ethics of being a "stool pigeon" is not of genuine concern to them. They use the phrase as an

epithet, as a smear, in the same way they use the words "crook," "pimp," "rat," etc. Their minds are closed. Argument or discussion with such people is useless. They seek not truth, but reasons for remaining in the realm of falsehood. Hence, to discuss the moral question with such persons will be like discussing it with the wind.

On the other hand, those who honestly question the ethics of the case will distinguish between the theory and the policies of the Communist movement on the one side, and the men and women with whom they were associated on the other. They will condemn the theory and the policies, but will say they cannot bring themselves to expose their friends and associates whom they admire and like in general. In many instances, such persons will feel a heavy responsibility for those they recruited, encouraged, and otherwise assisted in the Party.

The answer to that objection can only be on moral grounds. The evil philosophy and the evil political forms which promote the philosophy depend for their existence upon the men and women, however praiseworthy may be their ideals, who are its advocates. If they remain, so too will the negative policies, etc. His choice, therefore, is clear if his convictions are firm.

It should be pointed out that actually he is not informing on his former friends and associates so much as he is combatting evil principles

from which flow evil practical consequences, which have imprisoned his friends. His work could be a work of freeing them. Further, he has a moral obligation to oppose such principles, thereby preventing far greater numbers of people from being victimized in the future than his friends and associates consist of at this time. He should be moved by the thought that the greatest good should go to the greatest number. This he has within his power to accomplish up to the limit of his capacity.

With this sincere, idealistic and sensitive person who raises the question of "stool pigeon," considerable care should be exercised not to justify his cooperation with you on the ground that Communists approve of this same type of activity. Actually, this may have been one of the elements which turned him against Communism. If this point does come up, it should be explained to him thoroughly how and why the circumstances and motivation are basically different in each case.

THE GOOD CITIZEN INFORMS

The laws which prohibit people from engaging in espionage, sabotage, sedition, treason, etc., are made by us, the people. They are our laws, yours and mine. We made them. We must and ought to enforce them. This is one reason why the common, ordinary citizen has the emergency power of arrest, if a felony is committed in his presence, and

is morally obligated to exercise it. By the same token, this is why the common, ordinary citizen is morally obligated to convey to governmental authorities any knowledge he may have or is able to secure relating to a violation of his own laws. When he does this, he is being the good citizen. He is preserving freedom under law, our constitution and our way of life. When he does this, he is protecting now and in the future the well-being of his wife, his children, friends, neighbors and fellow citizens. He is like the medical doctor who with his microscope spies upon germs and conveys information about them to the right people so that these germs can do no harm. This is spying and stool pigeoning in the original, true and finest sense. This is patriotism. This is effective citizenship. This is loyalty.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Serial Description ~ COVER SHEET

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 95

Page 12 ~ b2, b7E

Page 15 ~ b2, b7E

Page 16 ~ b2, b7E

Page 17 ~ b2, b7E

Page 18 ~ b2, b7E

Page 19 ~ b2, b7E

Page 20 ~ b2, b7E

Page 21 ~ b2, b7E

Page 22 ~ b2, b7E

Page 23 ~ b2, b7E

Page 24 ~ b2, b7E

Page 25 ~ b2, b7E

Page 26 ~ b2, b7E

Page 27 ~ b2, b7E

Page 28 ~ b2, b7E

Page 29 ~ b2, b7E

Page 30 ~ b2, b7E

Page 31 ~ b2, b7E

Page 32 ~ b2, b7E

Page 33 ~ b2, b7E

Page 34 ~ b2, b7E

Page 35 ~ b2, b7E

Page 58 ~ b2, b7E
Page 59 ~ b2, b7E
Page 60 ~ b2, b7E
Page 61 ~ b2, b7E
Page 62 ~ b2, b7E
Page 63 ~ b2, b7E
Page 64 ~ b2, b7E
Page 65 ~ b2, b7E
Page 66 ~ b2, b7E
Page 67 ~ b2, b7E
Page 68 ~ b2, b7E
Page 69 ~ b2, b7E
Page 70 ~ b2, b7E
Page 71 ~ b2, b7E
Page 72 ~ b2, b7E
Page 73 ~ b2, b7E
Page 74 ~ b2, b7E
Page 75 ~ b2, b7E
Page 76 ~ b2, b7E
Page 77 ~ b2, b7E
Page 78 ~ b2, b7E
Page 79 ~ b2, b7E
Page 80 ~ b2, b7E

Page 102 ~ b2, b7E

Page 103 ~ b2, b7E

Page 104 ~ b2, b7E

Page 105 ~ b2, b7E

Page 106 ~ b2, b7E

Page 107 ~ b2, b7E

Page 108 ~ b2, b7E

STOOL PIGEON OR LOYAL CITIZEN?

PART II

(Not for Dissemination Outside the Bureau)

June, 1955

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
John Edgar Hoover, Director

55 0196

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	i
<u>SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.</u>	iv
A. <u>Summary.</u>	iv
B. <u>Conclusions</u>	iv
<u>ANTICIPATION</u>	1
<u>BACKGROUND</u>	1
<u>CASE EXAMPLES--SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL</u>	2
<u>Successful</u>	2
<u>Unsuccessful.</u>	3
<u>CHILDREN</u>	6
<u>CHRISTIAN SCRUPLES</u>	8
<u>CLEAN BREAK FROM THE PARTY</u>	9
<u>COMPARISONS</u>	10
<u>COMMUNIST LOYALTY</u>	10
<u>COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER--AN INFORMANT</u>	12
<u>COMMUNIST PRESS</u>	12
<u>CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES</u>	13
<u>CONFIDENCE IN THE FBI</u>	13
<u>CREATING AGREEMENT</u>	14
<u>CRIME ANALOGIES</u>	15
<u>"CUSTOM-TAILORED" REBUTTALS,</u>	18

<u>DAILY WORKER</u>	19
<u>DEFECTION AND DEFECTEES</u>	20
<u>DEPARTURE</u>	25
<u>DEVIATIONISM</u>	26
<u>DIRECTING THE INTERVIEW</u>	26
<u>DISAFFILIATION AND CONTRADICTION</u>	27
<u>DISILLUSIONMENT</u>	28
<u>DUTY</u>	31
<u>EMOTION</u>	32
<u>ENEMY INVASION AND COMMUNISM</u>	32
<u>EQUALITY</u>	33
<u>EVERY PERSON HAS SOMETHING OF VALUE TO CONTRIBUTE.</u>	34
<u>EVIL AND THE RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN</u>	36
<u>EXAMPLES OF COMMUNIST INFORMANTS</u>	36
<u>FBI--PROFESSIONAL</u>	37
<u>FBI--AN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION</u>	37
<u>FACTIONALISM</u>	38
<u>FAMILY SITUATIONS</u>	39
<u>FEAR OF SELF INCRIMINATION</u>	39
<u>FIRE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS</u>	40

<u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>	41
<u>FOR OR AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT</u>	41
<u>FREQUENT CONTACTS</u>	42
<u>FUGITIVES</u>	42
<u>GIFTS</u>	43
<u>"HARMLESS" COMMUNISTS AND SELF-PRESERVATION</u>	44
<u>HERO WORSHIP</u>	45
<u>HISTORICAL REFERENCES TO INFORMANTS</u>	49
<u>IDEALISM</u>	50
<u>ILLEGALITIES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA</u>	51
<u>INFORMANTS IN SOVIET RUSSIA</u>	52
<u>JUSTICE</u>	53
<u>KIDNAPPING ANALOGY</u>	53
<u>LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE DEFECTOR</u>	55
<u>LAWS WHICH PLEASE AND DISPLEASE</u>	56
<u>LEGAL REPRESENTATION</u> :	57
<u>LINGERING LOYALTY TO THE PARTY</u>	59
<u>LITERATURE</u>	60
<u>LOGIC</u>	60
<u>LOYALTY AND UNIONISM</u>	61

<u>MEETING NEEDS</u>	62
<u>MINIMIZING</u>	63
<u>MUTUAL FRIENDS</u>	64
<u>NAZIS AND FASCISTS</u>	64
<u>OLD ASSOCIATES AND FRIENDS</u>	65
<u>ON THE RECORD</u>	67
<u>PATRIOTISM</u>	67
<u>PERSEVERANCE, HONESTY, FORTHRIGHTNESS</u>	68
<u>PERSONALITY CONSIDERATIONS</u>	69
<u>PERSONALIZING THE INTERVIEW</u>	69
<u>PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS</u>	70
<u>PRESS--DEMOCRATIC VS. COMMUNISTIC</u>	70
<u>PROOF OF LOYALTY</u>	72
<u>QUOTATIONS</u>	73
<u>RELIGION</u>	73
<u>REPORTING FACTS FOR GOOD REASONS</u>	73
<u>REPORTING TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY, USA</u>	77
<u>ROOT OF LOYALTY</u>	78
<u>SALESMANSHIP</u>	78
<u>SELF-PRESERVATION</u>	79

<u>SHIFTING THE BURDEN OF DEFENSE</u>	79
<u>SILENCE</u>	81
<u>SOCIETY ITSELF IN DANGER</u>	82
<u>SOLDIERS</u>	82
<u>SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATIONS</u>	83
<u>SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING</u> ,	83
<u>TATTLING</u>	84
<u>TEST OF LOYALTY</u>	84
<u>TROTSKYISM AND COMMUNIST INFILTRATION</u>	85
<u>UNDERCOVER AGENT</u>	85
<u>UNIONS AND THE FBI</u>	86
<u>USED BY THE PARTY</u>	87
<u>VERIFICATION OF FACTS KNOWN</u>	87
<u>VICTIMS VS. PROFESSIONAL REVOLUTIONARIES</u>	88
<u>VIOLENCE AND PEACE, ILLEGALITY AND LEGALITY</u> ,	89
<u>VOLUNTARY INFORMANTS</u>	91
<u>WARFARE</u>	91
<u>WEAKNESSES</u>	92

<u>WEAPON OF THE PARTY</u>	93
<u>WE THE PEOPLE</u>	94
<u>WHO SAYS "STOOL PIGEON"?</u>	94
<u>WORLD TENSION</u>	95
<u>X RAYS</u>	96
<u>YOUTH</u>	96
<u>ZEALOT</u>	97

INTRODUCTION

The monograph Stool Pigeon or Loyal Citizen? was sent to field offices with SAC Letter No. 81, Series 1952, dated August 22, 1952. A great many favorable comments were received from the Agent personnel about the usefulness of this study. Requests were made repeatedly for a supplemental monograph on this subject.

It was decided to experiment and draw the material for a second monograph almost exclusively from the actual experiences of our Agent personnel over an adequate period of time. This has been done and the results are set forth in the following pages.

This second study has been written and prepared differently from the first. The experiences of our Agent personnel, gathered during many and varied types of interviews, are set forth exactly as they have been reported. Every effort has been made to preserve the integrity of the Agent's experience and thought, even to the point of using the same wording or phraseology where possible.

Why was this done? It was done in order that our Agents may know what they are saying, how they are reasoning and what approaches are being made to overcome the "stool pigeon" objection in their efforts to

develop security informants. It was done in order that Agents may see both the good and the bad, the weak and the strong elements in their thinking. It was done so that Agents can share and pool all their thoughts and methods on this subject, thereby learning from one another and enriching their knowledge in a manner not otherwise possible. Lastly, it was done this way so that Agents can either criticize or approve of their own thoughts and procedures. This is not Seat of Government thinking. It is the Agents' thinking. Therefore, it is apropos to ask: "Are Agents satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of their own thought and experiences? Do they like or dislike them? Do they represent the best that Agents can do or can they do much better?" These are basic questions which only Agents themselves can answer during the course of their daily work.

On studying this work, Agents will receive many diverse ideas, fresh viewpoints, and unique procedures for overcoming the "stool pigeon" objection. They will also observe certain weak approaches which have been used and should be avoided in the future or modified so as to be more impressive.

On studying this work, Agents will observe from time to time a certain overlapping of ideas and procedures. However, at the same time

they will note a certain variance, either in the wording or the approach. This overlapping has been allowed first, because of the wish to present the experiences of different Agents as they actually occurred and second, because the variance, slight though it may be in some instances, is sufficient to stimulate fresh thoughts and unique procedures.

The arrangement of the material is alphabetical which gives the study more practical value as a reference work. It is the consensus of all Agents that the "stool pigeon" objection is one of the most difficult, if not the most difficult objection, to overcome in the development of a security informant. It is hoped that this study will not only help somewhat to resolve this difficulty, but that it will stimulate and induce our Agents to do some original thinking and engage in new approaches as well as refine and perfect old ideas and procedures in this particular orbit of our work. When this is done and good results are forthcoming, all Agents should report in a separate memorandum their successful thoughts and practices to the Bureau, marked to the attention of the Central Research Section. When a sufficient number of them have been received, another supplement to this study can be issued, setting forth the ever-growing, broader, varied and more effective approaches of our Agents for consideration and use throughout the field.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

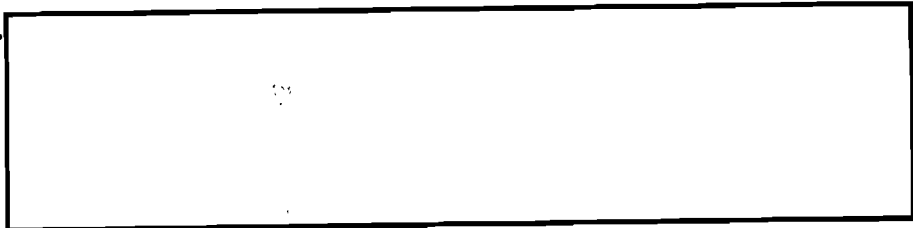
A. Summary

This study sets forth the actual thoughts, experiences and procedures used by our Agent personnel to overcome the "stool pigeon" objection in the development of security informants. There are as many different approaches to the subject as there are Agents. Yet, certain common ideas and practices occur independent of each other and similar and even identical elements are to be found in the numerous approaches made. Therefore, it has been possible to compress the accumulated experiences of all Agents reporting into one hundred headings running from A to Z.

B. Conclusions

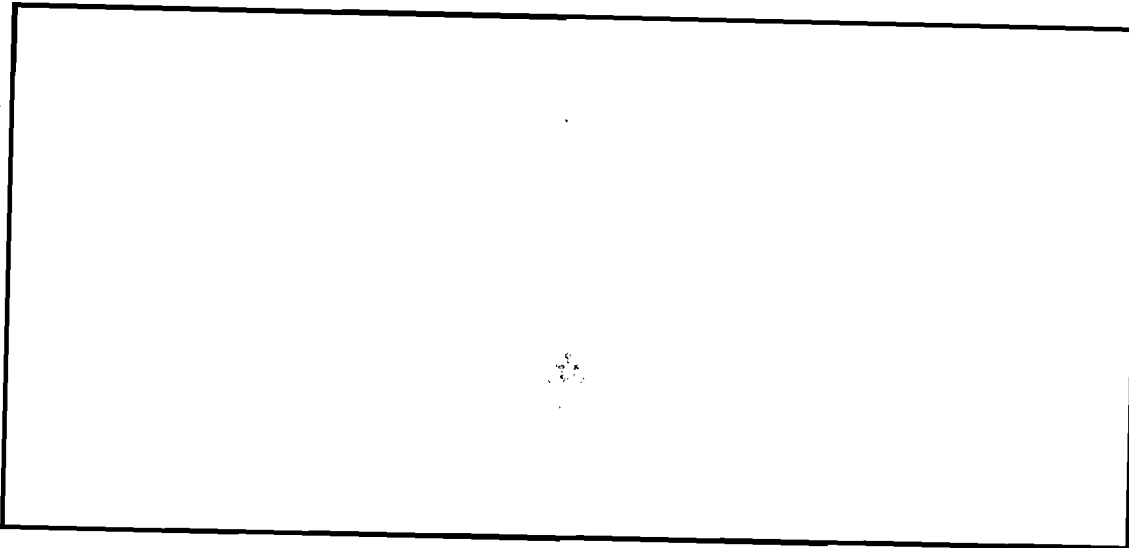
1. The "stool pigeon" objection is one of the most difficult obstacles for Agents to overcome in developing a security informant. This is true, irrespective of whether the objection is sincerely or insincerely made.

2.



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b7E

ANTICIPATION



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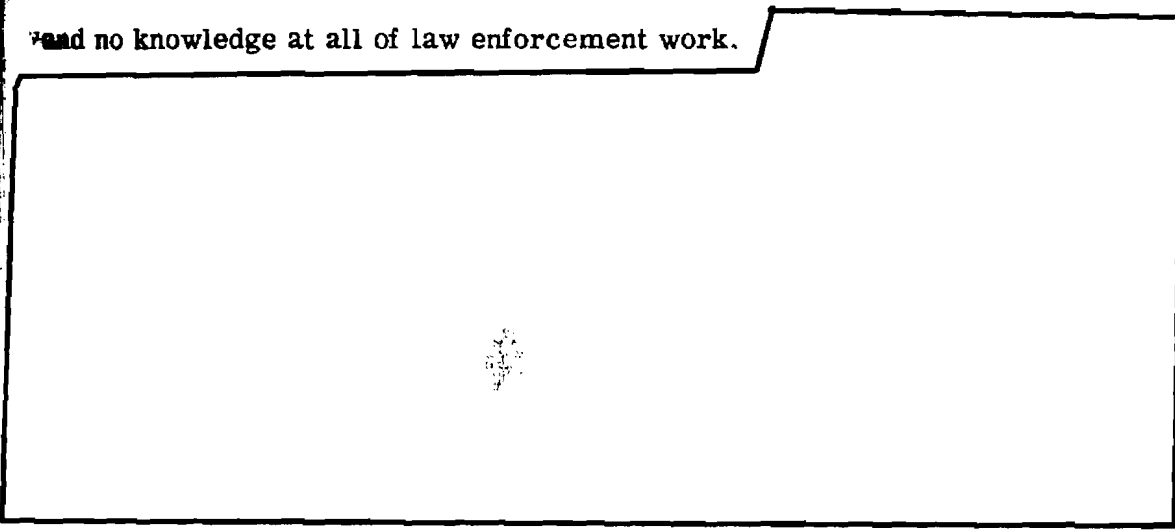
BACKGROUND

In their efforts to overcome the objection of "stool pigeon" raised by the potential informants, Agents have come to realize more and more the tremendous importance of the backgrounds possessed by these persons and the Agents' thorough knowledge of it plus a sympathetic understanding.

For example, it is pointed out on perfectly solid grounds that overcoming the objection of "stool pigeon" coming from a person who is middle-aged with wide experience (some of which may relate to different phases of law enforcement) is a much different task than overcoming the same objection

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coming from a young man just out of college and with limited experience
and no knowledge at all of law enforcement work.



CASE EXAMPLES -- SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL

It is believed it may be helpful to all Agent personnel engaged in
developing security informants to consider the following typical, successful
and unsuccessful case examples of their kind.

Successful

