NCLC spied on nuclear foes

Recently released police files not only document for the first time open collusion between the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) and police agencies, but also reveal increasing government surveillance of the antinuclear movement.

The documents came to light as a result of a suit filed last month by participants in the April 30 sit-in at the Seabrook, N.H., nuclear power plant. The documents show several contacts between police agencies investigating the Clamshell Alliance which organized the demonstration, and NCLC and its front group, the U.S. Labor Party.

The documents reveal that the NCLC informants first volunteered information, most of it false, to the New Hampshire State Police and attorney general’s office. The police then initiated a meeting with the informants.

Though it operates under a “left” cover, it has been suspected for years that NCLC is little more than a group of provocateurs heavily infiltrated, if not controlled, by the political police. The files released last week are the first government documents substantiating NCLC’s ties to government intelligence agencies.

NCLC’S MISINFORMATION

The documents state that NCLC informants told the state police that the Seabrook demonstrators were planning violent actions. In reality, the sit-in was based on an almost unspeakable commitment to nonviolence. A New Hampshire state police memo dated two weeks before the demonstration says that State Police intelligence official Donald R. Buxton had been ordered by his superior, Captain Richard Campbell, to set up a meeting with two NCLC members in the Boston area. Buxton then met with Larry Sherman and Graham Lowry of the U.S. Labor Party on April 13, according to the documents. Buxton reported that “these two very well-refined gentlemen felt that the planned demonstration on April 30, 1970 at the site of the Seabrook nuclear power plant is nothing but a cover for terrorist activity."

The U.S. Labor Party informants also told police that organizers of the demonstration had stated that “the only way we will leave is if we’re killed.” They gave police what they said was a list of people involved in organizing the demonstration.

By BEN BIDWILL

Imagine the day when you’ll be able to send an electronic letter from a computer-like terminal in your home, and checks will electronically be transferred by a network.

That day is not far off. And if the giant computer electronics companies have their way, this big technological innovation will not be the property of the “public sector” but of the “private sector.”

Until that era, the Post Office will restrict its activities to mail service. And the increasing deficits of the federal agency will be met with greater cutbacks as service is further reduced.

That is the policy outlined in congressional hearings by Postmaster General Benjamin Bailer, who wants to cut 300,000 postal jobs through speedup and machines, and reduce the service further over the next six years.

And as a long-term solution, Bailer wants to turn the monopoly over to the private communications companies.

Bailer’s plan was endorsed by the recently released presidential commission empanelled by former President last year. Some 20,000 letter carriers would be laid off as most of the jobs would be eliminated by ending delivery.

But even the commission was critical of the Post Office in its report that AT&T in the electronic transfers are first-class business—its only profitable service—over 20 years to private companies. Bailer, a former corporate employee, consistently held that the private companies are “best equipped to handle the new technologies.”

The response of the four unions that represent the 655,000 postal workers has ranged from militant-sounding rhetoric to plain, inaction. Faced with the possible firing of 65,000 jobs.

By ANDY BARLOW and HANNA LESSINGER

Guardian Bureaus Boston

A strike by some 250 employees of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) has defeated attempts to divide strikers and tenants and forced the BHA to the bargaining table.

Two weeks ago, clerical and management employees of BHA, represented by Teamster’s Local 122, walked out in an attempt to win their first wage raise in two years.

The first tactic of the BHA was to claim that the proposed 10% wage increase was impossible and would take away much-needed money from building repair and maintenance. Because maintenance and craft workers refused to cross the picket lines around housing projects and elderly centers, Boston politicians and the local press immediately accused the workers of victimizing the poor and elderly.

The attempt in the housing project tenants against the strikers backfired, however. Tenants, who have been assessed...
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The U.S. Labor Party informants also told police that organizers of the demonstration had stated that "the only way we will leave is if we are killed." They gave police what they said was a list of people involved in organizing the demonstration and promised to provide further information.

U.S. Labor Party spokesman Stuart Perlingell told a reporter for the Village Voice that the Clamshell Alliance was "a prototype for building a terrorist organization."

"We are going after Clamshell," he added.

FBI SURVEILLANCE

Other documents outline FBI surveillance of organizations supporting the Seabrook mobilization. An April 8 memo noted that an informant of the FBI's New York City office was present at a March 26 meeting of the executive committee of the July 4 Coalition, at which the coalition endorsed the Seabrook demonstration. The report says that the coalition informant predicted a "violent encounter with police" at the demonstration.

This misinformation was apparently the partial basis for statements by New Hampshire Gov. Meldrim Thompson that demonstrator organizers planned violence. Press reports at the time also sought to convey the impression that the demonstrators might be planning violence.

The demonstration was concluded without any violent incidents. The police conducted a mass arrest, however, imprisoning over 1400 people for up to 10 days.

The suit that forced the release of the documents charges that the mass arrests of the Seabrook demonstrators violated their civil rights. A.W.

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These attempts to pit housing project tenants against the strikers backfired, however. Tenants, who have long experience with dilapidated BHA housing, collected and burned their own garbage, as they have often been forced to do before.

"I don't notice that much difference because of the strike," one tenant told the Guardian. "There's always a lot of garbage around here." Local 122's business manager Ralph Gilman said that at one picket line tenants asked him, "Okay, when do we march on the State House?"

The next tactic of the BHA was to go to the

'MacArthur' protest

The Pentagon will be busy June 29 celebrating the world premiere of the film "MacArthur," a movie aimed at resurrecting right-wing Gen. Douglas MacArthur as a national hero.

But outside the Radio City Music Hall in New York City, demonstrators will be blasting away at this militarist effort.

The premiere will be marked by a march by West Point cadets and appearances by top U.S. Generals Maxwell Taylor, William Westmoreland and Mark Clark, New York City Mayor Abraham Beame, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), and former Treasury Secretary William Simon.

The demonstration is sponsored by the U.S. Out of Korea Committee of Youth Against War and Fascism. Co-sponsors include the United of Democratic Thais, the Committee in Solidarity with the Korean People, the Union of Democratic Filipinos, the Guardian, Liberation Bookstore, Higher Ground Cenab and others. The action will begin at 6 p.m. at 50 St. and 6 Ave. For information: 212-255-8352.

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