

A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
Confidential Files**

**McCARTHY ERA BLACKLISTING OF
SCHOOL TEACHERS,
COLLEGE PROFESSORS, AND
OTHER PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

**The FBI Responsibilities Program File and the
Dissemination of Information Policy File**

UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS OF AMERICA

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**Edited by
Kenneth O'Reilly**

**Guide compiled by
Robert E. Lester**

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INTRODUCTION

The word “McCarthyism” had already entered the American political vocabulary in 1950 when FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee that he would have no part in legitimizing reckless charges of guilt by association. This was particularly important given the extensive and often unverified information that the FBI had acquired in the course of its legitimate internal security work. “Should a given file be disclosed,” Hoover said, “the issue would be a far broader one than concerns the subject of the investigation. Names of persons who by force of circumstance entered into the investigation might well be innocent of any wrong. To publicize their names without the explanation of the associations would be a grave injustice. . . . I would not want to be a party to any action which would ‘smear’ innocent individuals for the rest of their lives. We cannot disregard the fundamental principles of common decency and the application of basic American rights of fair play.” In fact, as we now know through access to FBI files under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Hoover was violating those basic American rights at the very time he assured the subcommittee that he was not. The director leaked information to Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (R., Wi.) and other Red-hunters in the Congress, and established a so-called Responsibilities Program to institutionalize such services on the state and local levels.

The Freedom of Information Act has made it possible for historians and social scientists to examine the FBI’s contribution to the origins and resilience of McCarthyism. Though the FOIA dates from 1966, FBI records remained inaccessible until 1974, when Congress passed substantive amendments to the original statute. Since that time, the number of McCarthy-era FBI files that have been declassified has grown steadily to include not only the Responsibilities Program File, but dozens of other files on subjects ranging from the great spy cases (Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs) to the principal congressional inquisitors (the House Un-American Activities Committee and Senator McCarthy’s Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations). Most of the major releases to date focus on McCarthyism as an issue in national politics, and the FBI Responsibilities Program File adds to the growing documentation of McCarthyism in that context while providing a rare and fascinating look into the culture and politics of the purges in the states.

The political style to which Senator McCarthy gave his name was not only characterized by reckless charges and telescopic focus on the associations of dissidents rather than on the issues they raised, but by the evocation of Communists-in-government rhetoric to explain such complex foreign policy developments at the Yalta “sell-out” and the “loss” of China. No matter how concerned with international affairs, the conservative political activists who became known as McCarthyites identified the Communist threat as an internal one. They placed a greater emphasis on the subversive plotting of American

Communist party members than the geopolitical realities that allowed communism to expand after World War II—notably the Soviet Red Army drive across Eastern Europe in 1945 and Mao Tse-tung's strength in the Chinese countryside. This formulation assumed American omnipotence, and there was a certain logic to that assumption. The United States emerged from the war an economic and strategic giant seemingly capable of dominating the world economy and in possession of a nuclear monopoly. Yet at the same time the nation enjoyed unrivaled power in relation to the rest of the world, the Soviets acquired their empire in Eastern Europe and China fell to Mao. Conservatives in the Congress and elsewhere argued that American omnipotence could only have been undermined by the subversion and treachery of Communist agents who had infiltrated the State Department, betraying their own country and the peoples of Eastern Europe and China on behalf of the international Communist conspiracy.

The Alger Hiss spy case of 1948–1950 gave this argument a boost, as Hiss had been a member of the State Department delegation to the principal wartime summit conference held in February 1945 at Yalta in the Crimea. The conservative critique, in turn, gave a boost to the Republican party's political prospects, because it allowed party spokesmen to charge the Democratic administrations of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman with negligence or even “twenty years of treason,” to use the words chosen by Senator McCarthy to describe the period between the presidencies of Herbert Hoover and Dwight Eisenhower. During the domestic cold war years, conservative politicians combined a traditional promise to “get Washington out of the red” with a new promise to “get the Reds out of Washington.” Accusing the Democrats of being soft on communism at best, the Republicans promised to get tough, and they did exactly that by helping to plunge the United States into a search for Communists in the State Department and other federal bureaucracies and agencies. Eventually, the hunt for Reds moved into local and state governments, the unions, the professions, the entertainment industry, and other areas of the private sector.

Scholars have not often questioned the assumption that McCarthyism both predated the meteoric rise in February 1950 of its most flamboyant practitioner, the junior senator from Wisconsin, and lingered on after Senator McCarthy's censure and death. There has been a spirited debate, however, regarding the nature of the threat posed by American Communists and the origins of the anti-Communist politics of the time. One interpretation contends that McCarthyism was a legitimate response to a serious internal security problem. Another explains McCarthyism as a mass movement of so-called radical right unduly susceptible to the wildest conspiracy theories. Yet another focuses on President Truman's contribution. One school of thought views the attorney general's list, the federal employee loyalty program, and the Smith Act prosecutions as benign attempts to contain the overzealous anti-Communists in the Congress. An alternative, revisionist view presents Truman's own anticommunism as part of a purposeful strategy to silence criticism of the pax Americana and to mobilize public opinion behind the administration's pursuit of an open-door world. The irony is that Truman emerged after 1950 as the favorite target of the McCarthyites for his softness on communism. The revisionists argue that this was only because the president had promised something (absolute security) that he could not deliver.

The FBI Responsibilities Program has much to contribute to the ongoing historical debate regarding the nature of the threat posed by American Communists and the origins and resilience of anticommunism as a force in American life. The Responsibilities Program had its origins at the very beginning to the cold war in February 1946, when J. Edgar Hoover approved an FBI executives' conference strategy to undermine Communist support among "labor unions," "persons prominent in religious circles," and, more broadly, "the Liberal elements." By releasing "educational material" through "available channels" the FBI hoped to develop "an informed public opinion" about "the basically Russian nature of the Communist Party in this country." FBI agents implemented this "campaign of education" by selectively leaking derogatory information on Communists and their dissidents to prominent newsmen (Walter Winchell, George Sokolsky, Fulton Lewis, Jr., and David Lawrence); to private-sector organizations (the American Legion and the American Bar Association); to anti-Communist liberals (notably the ACLU's Morris Ernst); to Republican party leaders (Herbert Hoover and Thomas E. Dewey); to conservative congressmen (Richard Nixon, Joseph McCarthy, and J. Parnell Thomas); and to congressional investigating committees (HUAC and eventually the McCarthy Committee and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee). In 1947, for example, as the House Un-American Activities Committee was preparing for the so-called Hollywood Ten hearings, FBI director Hoover ordered his agents "to extend *every* assistance to this Committee." Among other services, the FBI provided HUAC with a list of potential witnesses that included the names of Screen Actors Guild president Ronald Reagan. Having designated Reagan "Confidential Informant T-10," the FBI expected him to be a "friendly witness."

The FBI Responsibilities Program of 1951–1955 was an extension of this "campaign of education." The program itself was born on February 17, 1951, five days after a delegation of state governors appointed by the National Governors Conference met with Hoover to discuss "coordination in the field of internal security between state and federal governments." The governors were especially interested in "securing information from the files of the FBI "on individuals whom they were considering for important positions." Hoover listened to the governors' arguments, consulted Justice Department and White House officials, and then instructed his agents "to consider making information regarding the infiltration of Communists and other subversive elements into public or semipublic organizations within a state available to the appropriate authorities." With that order, the director institutionalized what had been an *ad hoc* policy of leaking derogatory information on dissidents.

From February 1951 to March 1955, the FBI disseminated derogatory personal and political information to the employers of more than 400 school teachers and college professors; 200 city, county, and state government employees; 109 public utility workers; a handful of people employed by tax-exempt organizations ranging from the March of Dimes to the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund; and others. In all, the FBI targeted 810 American citizens for economic sanction, hoping to drive dissidents off public payrolls and into unemployment lines.

Over half of all FBI Responsibilities Program actions were aimed at persons employed as teachers in public institutions. At the February 12, 1951, meeting with Hoover, Governor Elbert N. Carvel of Delaware interrupted the director's monologue on FBI internal security accomplishments to raise "the matter of Communism in our colleges

and universities.” “The Governors frequently will appoint college professors to positions,” he said, according to the FBI’s detailed records, “but did not know whom they are appointing.” Another governor who attended the February 12 meeting, Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois, echoed this sentiment, mentioning “state legislators” who “were beginning to move toward investigation of state educational institutions.” “This would create a certain amount of witch-hunting,” Stevenson felt, and to guard against this possibility FBI assistance was needed: “If Governors could be furnished, on a strictly confidential basis, information from the FBI, they could protect themselves from ill-considered inquiries by well-meaning legislatures.”

From there, the FBI quickly expanded the Responsibilities Program beyond the professoriat. On April 30, 1951, an FBI executives’ conference recommended a purge of public school teachers on the grounds that “daily contact of teachers with pupils forms a close association and enables the teachers to effectively control the thinking of the pupils and thus insiduously [*sic*] instill into the minds of children the Communist party line.” Hoover noted his approval by scribbling a simple “OK. H.” on the recommendation. The director believed subversives were “at work in every kind of educational institution, from nursery schools to the universities,” and that his bureau had a duty to purge all “Communist teachers and fellow travellers.”

The FBI Responsibilities Program File highlights the bipartisan constituency among state government officials and the national administrations of Harry S Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower for the FBI’s blacklisting activities, revealing a consensus among political elites on the question of whether dissidents should be allowed to teach in public institutions or otherwise work in the public sector. At the same time, the file reveals the failure of that consensus to extend beyond political elites. When expanding the Responsibilities Program in April 1951, bureau officials conceded the risks involved. “Any attempt to remove public school teachers based on information furnished by the FBI,” they reasoned, “could be twisted by the Communist Party and its sympathizers into an endeavor by the FBI to control the thinking in the Educational field.” Non-Communist “educators of prominence” who “are extremely jealous of any attempt to encroach on the independence of thought in the Educational field” might also criticize the bureau. “We can expect flarebacks,” the FBI executives’ conference noted, concluding nonetheless that “the public has now become educated to the dangers of Communism and...will now back up the dissemination of such information by the FBI.” Hoover and his men were wrong on this last point, as the file makes absolutely clear.

Public exposure of Responsibilities Program activities in the media—and particularly FBI interference with academic freedom in the nation’s public schools and colleges—ultimately led the FBI to conclude that the public would not support the purge. At Hoover’s urging, Attorney General Herbert Brownell terminated the Responsibilities Program in March 1955. That decision, moreover, raises questions about the role of the press during the purges, suggesting that just one newspaper (in this case the *Denver Post*) with the courage of its own First Amendment convictions could (and did) make a difference.

The FBI Responsibilities Program served as a bridge between the “campaign of education” of the immediate postwar years and the much-publicized counterintelligence programs of the post-McCarthy period. The first of the FBI counterintelligence programs, COINTELPRO-CPUSA, launched in 1956, was intended to “expose, discredit, disrupt, or

otherwise neutralize” the Communist party and its membership. During the 1960s the FBI began a new COINTELPRO against the Trotskyite Socialist Workers party, white hate groups (notably the Ku Klux Klan), black hate groups (from the Black Panther party to Martin Luther King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference), and the New Left. All of the programs contained elements of blacklisting and “educational activities,” and the Communist party, black hate group, and New Left efforts often focused on the nation’s schools. “We should educate our students in democracy,” one FBI executive proposed, by supplying “information” to “reliable, dedicated, loyal college faculty,” by developing “an outstanding student leader on each campus,” and by disseminated data to “established sources of all college newspapers.” Much like the Responsibilities Program, Hoover terminated the COINTELPROs following public exposure. In 1971 an antiwar group broke into an FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania, stole files pertaining to the New Left program, and sent those files to the press and various members of Congress.

The FBI Responsibilities Program File contains newspaper clippings, periodic summaries, and memoranda recording contracts with Truman and Eisenhower administration officials, but policy documents and action documents make up the great majority of the file. Most policy documents record the opinions and recommendations of FBI officials regarding strategies and tactics, and many of them also include Hoover’s marginalia. The director habitually scribbled orders on in-house memoranda. To give researchers and other users a better idea of overall FBI policy regarding the transmittal of information outside the bureau during the McCarthy era, the FBI Dissemination of Information Policy File has been included in this collection as an appendix.

Action documents in the FBI Responsibilities Program File, while also containing policy-type information from time to time, usually consist of communications between FBI headquarters and the various FBI field offices regarding the employment status of specific persons targeted for leaks. Action documents record the purge in minute detail, beginning with the selection of “targets” from the FBI Security Index, a listing containing the names of more than 14,000 persons whose “presence at liberty in this country in time of war or national emergency would be dangerous to the public peace and safety of the United States Government”—in effect, a list of “subversives” ranked according to “their degree of dangerousness.” As a cross check, the FBI compared the Security Index listings with the names of teachers and other public employees “identified as communist by friendly witnesses” before the congressional investigating committees. On occasion, the FBI did not wait for such testimony. With HUAC preparing for hearings in Boston, for example, the local FBI office ran name checks on every member of the faculty and staff at both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in the process preparing documents for HUAC’s use on at least five Harvard faculty. FBI director Hoover also ordered his agents in Boston and across the country to compile reports on “subversive persons” at 54 other named colleges and universities and all “other schools...where information exists which would make a survey desirable.”

After selecting a specific target and verifying the target’s employment, the FBI would then leak additional derogatory information either to the governor of the state or to a “reliable local government official.” For example, a school board member might be briefed about a grade school teacher, or a regent might be briefed about a college professor. Often, the FBI would investigate entire school boards and boards of regents to find a person discreet enough not to jeopardize what an FBI executives’ conference

described as “our standard claim that the files of the FBI are confidential.” Ironically, today’s FBI invariably withholds the names of the persons who lost their jobs under the Responsibilities Program on privacy grounds. Subsection (B) (7) (C) of the Freedom of Information Act does not allow the release of “investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes...to the extent that the production of such records would... constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.”

Collectively, the policy and action documents in the FBI Responsibilities Program File present research opportunities on such cold war–era subjects as academic freedom; the triumphs and failures of the media; the nature, dynamics, and human costs of the purges in the states; the internal security policies of the Truman and Eisenhower administrations; and the phenomenon of liberal anticommunism where Adlai Stevenson and others supported FBI blacklisting as an alternative to the crude Red hunting of the congressional investigating committees. The documents in the file also raise questions about the role of Hoover’s FBI in a democratic society, illuminating not only the FBI’s contribution to the origins and resilience of McCarthyism, but the degree to which the politics and values of the FBI’s internal security bureaucrats were part of the governing process in those times.

Organization of Files

All documents in the FBI Responsibilities Program File are serialized under the 62 (Miscellaneous Subversive) classifications, which includes a subclassification for “Liaison with Agencies of the Federal Government, States and Cities and Penal and Other Institutions.” The file number (93875) and serial number follow the classification number. Thus, the first document in the Responsibilities Program File is marked 62-93875-1, the second 62-93875-2, and so on. A few documents bear the marking “not recorded” instead of a serial number, indicating that the original copies were serialized in another file and additional copies crossfiled in the Responsibilities Program File. The documents are also organized in rough chronological order. No FBI file is in exact chronological order owing to the volume and timeliness of mail going in and out of the FBI headquarters from FBI field offices from coast to coast. Fortunately, action and policy documents pertaining to particular areas of the country are clearly marked and easy to locate throughout the file. Researchers might find it useful to consult Athan Theoharis, “In-House Cover-Up: Researching FBI Files,” in *Beyond the Hiss Case: The FBI, Congress, and the Cold War*, ed. Theoharis (Philadelphia, 1982), 20–77, an excellent introduction to the FBI filing system.

Researchers in the FBI Responsibilities Program File might also find it useful to consult Athan Theoharis and John Stuart Cox, *The Boss: J. Edgar Hoover and the Great American Inquisition* (Philadelphia, 1988); and Kenneth O’Reilly, *Hoover and the Un-American: The FBI, HUAC, and the Red Menace* (Philadelphia, 1983). Both books focus on the McCarthy era and rely heavily on FBI files released under the Freedom of Information Act. Richard Gid Powers’s biography of the FBI director, *Secrecy and Power: The Life of J. Edgar Hoover* (New York, 1987), was also researched with the help of FOIA. Ellen W. Schrecker, in her excellent study *No Ivory Tower: McCarthyism and the Universities* (New York, 1986), provides a context in which FBI Responsibilities Program actions against college teachers can be viewed. For McCarthyism on the state and local level, the most recent book is Don E. Carleton, *Red Scare! Right-wing Hysteria*,

Fifties Fanaticism, and Their Legacy in Texas (Austin, 1985). David Cate's *The Great Fear: The Anti-Communist Purge under Truman and Eisenhower* (New York, 1978) remains the most encyclopaedic survey of the blacklists.

Older books that remain useful for understanding McCarthyism and its historiography include William F. Buckley, Jr. and L. Brent Bozell, *McCarthy and His Enemies* (Chicago, 1954); Earl Latham, *The Communist Controversy in Washington* (Cambridge, Mass., 1966); Daniel Bell, ed., *The Radical Right* (Garden City, N.Y., 1962); Richard Fried, *Men against McCarthy* (New York, 1967); Athan Theoharis, *Seeds of Repression* (Chicago, 1970); Richard M. Freeland, *The Truman Doctrine and the Origins of McCarthyism* (New York, 1974); and Robert Griffith, *The Politics of Fear* (Lexington, Ky., 1970).

Kenneth O'Reilly
Associate Professor of History
University of Alaska, Anchorage

NOTE ON SOURCES

The materials in this project were collected from the FBI files on dissemination of internal security information. These materials can be found at FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

The FBI classifications encompassing the materials in this micropublication are: 62-93875, Federal Responsibilities File; and 66-2554, Dissemination of Information Policy File. The introduction includes a description of the FBI's document filing procedures.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), under which these documents were requested, processed, and released, allows the FBI and other federal agencies to delete and withhold a variety of types of information. These exemptions—listed below and on the following page—authorize the Bureau to withhold any classified information (exemption (b) [1]), any material “related solely to the internal rules and practices of the FBI,” such as informant coding symbols ((b) [2]), any records that would invade someone’s personal privacy by, for instance, discussing their sexual habits ((b) [7] [c]), or material that would “reveal the identity of a confidential source or reveal confidential information furnished only by the confidential source” ((b) [7] [d]), among others. Whichever exemption or exemptions the FBI is claiming in withholding a certain passage or document is cited as such in the margin of a partially released document or on the top line of the “deleted page” sheets, which are inserted when a single page or entire document is withheld. Deleted page sheets also appear in place of referral documents, memos prepared by agencies other than the FBI and which the FBI forwarded to the originating agency for separate (and subsequent) FOIA processing.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b) (1) Information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 12356 in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods
- (b) (2) materials related solely to the internal rules and practices of the FBI
- (b) (3) information specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (see continuation page)
- (b) (4) privileged or confidential information obtained from a person, usually involving commercial or financial matters
- (b) (5) inter-agency or intra-agency documents which are not available through discovery proceedings during litigation; documents, the disclosure of which would have an inhibitive effect upon the development of policy and administrative direction; or documents which represent the work product of an attorney-client relationship
- (b) (6) materials contained in sensitive records such as personnel or medical files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (b) (7) investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, the disclosure of which would: (A) interfere with law enforcement proceedings; (B) deprive a person of the right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, or give one party of a controversy an undue advantage by exclusive access to such information; (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of another person; (D) reveal the identity of a confidential source or reveal confidential information furnished only by the confidential source; (E) disclose investigative techniques and procedures, thereby impairing their future effectiveness; and (F) endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel
- (b) (8) information collected by Government regulatory agencies from financial institutions
- (b) (9) geological and geophysical information, including maps, produced by private companies and filed by them with Government agencies.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (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, except records of arrest**
- (k) (1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 12356 in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods**
- (k) (2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which would reveal the identity of an individual who has furnished information pursuant to a promise that his identity would be held in confidence**
- (k) (3) material maintained in connection with providing protective service to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056**
- (k) (4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records**
- (k) (5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his identity would be held in confidence**
- (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 identity would be held in confidence**

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HOW TO CITE FBI RECORDS

Citations of FBI records should give the reader sufficient information to access the same material if desired. Although FBI files contain many different types of records, the following examples should suffice for most of them. They should include document type, "sender" to "recipient," date, caption/subject, headquarters or field office city, and classification-file number-subfile (if applicable)-serial number.

Example: memo, SAC [Special Agent in Charge], Boston to Director, FBI, 12/10/50, WILLIAM JONES, JOHN SMITH-VICTIM, Bureau File 7-xxxx-124.

Example: letter, SAC, Atlanta to Chief of Police, Atlanta, 1976 TRAINING SCHEDULE, 1-xxxx-124.

The types of documents usually found in FBI files are as follows:

(1) Letters: A communication sent from FBIHQ to a field office, from a field office to FBIHQ, from one field office to another or from either FBIHQ or a field office to any outside agency or person.

(2) Memorandum: A communication (on FBI memorandum paper) to the Attorney General and other departmental officials; from one official to another at FBIHQ, or from one employee to another within a field territory. It is also applicable to the omnibus types, such as memoranda to all SACs.

(3) Letterhead Memorandum (LHM): A memorandum on letterhead stationery; it should normally require a cover communication for transmittal.

(4) Report: A written document containing the results of an investigation. It is almost always prepared in a field office.

(5) Cover Page: The page(s) containing administrative data, leads and informant evaluations not found in LHMs or reports. Cover page(s) are not disseminated outside the FBI.

(6) Teletype: A communication transmitted by machine.

(7) Airtel: An intra-FBI communication with highest priority of those sent through the mail. Originally conceived as a teletype sent via airmail, it may be in teletype phraseology.

REEL INDEX

This Reel Index consists of two groupings of documents that pertain to the FBI classification number 62, file number 93875 (62-93875) and classification number 66, file number 2554 (66-2554). Individual documents are cited by adding a number after the file number (62-93875-1, for the first document in the file, and so on). Cross references are denoted by use of the file number followed by a check mark. Entries in this index refer to groupings of documents by year and month. UPA has made every effort to retain the complete integrity of the file number's document numbering system; therefore, some documents are out of chronological order. The frame numbers on the far left refer to the approximate beginning of a new month and the indented frame numbers refer to relevant policy statements and actions emanating from FBI Headquarters.

Reel 1

File Folder Major Document
Frame No. Frame No.

FBI Responsibilities Program: Responsibilities of the FBI in the Internal Security Field

Most of the following documents are memoranda and correspondence between FBI Headquarters in Washington and the various Special Agent in Charge (SAC) or field offices in all 48 states and Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico territories. As described in the introduction, this correspondence consisted of inquiries and responses to requests for information on a number of individuals in the public sector. These individuals included state and local public employees in transportation, water supplies, power, planning, etc. Information on individuals in semi-public organizations was also disseminated to state and local high officials. There are a large number of requests for information on individuals in public utilities that were listed on the Non-Vital Facilities List, compiled by the federal Civil Defense Office. There are also many requests for information on teachers and employees in public schools and on professors and employees in public-operated colleges and universities. The Security Index Card File was the source utilized by the FBI for responding to the many requests for information by the SAC offices.

1951

0001 January-February. 214pp.

The documents in the January-February reel entry refer to the FBI's response to the National Governor's Conference Executive Committee's January 26, 1951 meeting regarding FBI-state relations. This entry also includes the FBI's efforts to interview all 48 state governors. Correspondence and memoranda in this entry consist primarily of biographical data on particular governors, state governors' position on and desire for dissemination of internal security information, the use of this information in appointments and hiring by state and local governments, and the general relations between state law enforcement agencies and the FBI.

0001 National Governors Conference Executive Committee's January 26th Meeting. 2pp.
0012 FBI-Special Governors Committee's February 12th Meeting. 5pp.

- 0215 February–March. 40pp.
0215 SAC Letter No. 17, Series 1951, February 13, Dissemination of Information to States. 5pp.
0221 SAC Letter No. 19, Series 1951, February 17, Dissemination of Information on Public Utilities Employees. 3pp.
- 0255 April. 317pp.
0383 March items that were cross references. 57pp.
0481 SAC Letter No. 33, Series 1951, April 10, Dissemination of Information on Public Utilities Employees. 1p.
- 0572 May. 443pp.
0645 Beurlet, April 30, Dissemination of Information on Officials in the Educational Field. 2pp.
0693 SAC Letter No. 47, Series 1951, May 12, Dissemination of Information on Teachers and Employees of Public Schools. 1p.
0953 SAC Letter No. 54, Series 1951, May 29, Dissemination of Information to Local (Mayors), as well as, State Officials (Governors). 1p.
- 1015 June. 31pp.

Reel 2

FBI Responsibilities Program: Responsibilities of the FBI in the Internal Security Field cont. 1951 cont.

- 0001 June cont. 114pp.
0115 July. 117pp.
0232 August. 199pp.
0431 September. 223pp.
0654 October. 217pp.
0871 November. 108pp.
0885 SAC Letter No. 108, Series 1951, October 31, Dissemination of Information and Confidentiality of FBI Source. 1p.
0979 December. 51pp.

1952

- 1030 January. 118pp.

Reel 3

FBI Responsibilities Program: Responsibilities of the FBI in the Internal Security Field cont. 1952 cont.

- 0001 January cont. 49pp.
0050 February. 91pp.
0141 March. 112p.
0253 April. 99pp.
0354 May. 53pp.
0407 June. 67pp.
0474 July. 77pp.
0551 August. 34pp.
0585 September. 58pp.
0643 October. 159pp.

File Folder Major Document
Frame No. Frame No.

0802 November. 92pp.
0894 December. 101pp.

1953

0995 January. 84pp.

Reel 4

FBI Responsibilities Program: Responsibilities of the FBI in the Internal Security Field cont. 1953 cont.

0001 January cont. 28pp.
0029 February. 126pp.
0155 March. 215pp.
0370 April. 174pp.
0544 May. 207pp.
0674 J. Edgar Hoover to D. M. Ladd, April 27, Aspects of Internal Security over Which the
FBI Has No Direct Responsibility. 9pp.
0735 FBI Memoranda, May 8, Responsibility for the Internal Security of the U.S. 9pp.
0751 June. 152pp.

Reel 5

FBI Responsibilities Program: Responsibilities of the FBI in the Internal Security Field cont. 1953 cont.

0001 June cont. 105pp.
0106 July. 170pp.
0276 August. 211pp.
0487 September. 207pp.
0694 October. 209pp.
0755 FBI Executives' Conference Meeting Memorandum, October 14, Dissemination of
Information by the Bureau Outside the Executive Departments. 10pp.
0767 Attorney General to J. Edgar Hoover, October 20, Dissemination of Information to
Congressional Committees, Members of Congress, and Investigations for
Congressional Committees. 2pp.
0825 SAC Letter No. 53-72, October 27, Dissemination of Information and Confidentiality
of FBI as Source. 2pp.
0903 November. 67pp.
0969 SAC Letter No. 53-75, November 17, Dissemination of Information and
Confidentiality of FBI as Source. 1p.

Reel 6

FBI Responsibilities Program: Responsibilities of the FBI in the Internal Security Field cont. 1953 cont.

- 0001 November cont. 67pp.
0063 M. A. Johns to L. B. Nichols, November 12, Brief on Details of Controversy with Municipal Authorities of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Congressman Gordon H. Scherer. 4pp. [33 pages have been withheld.]
0068 December. 217pp.
0158 L. B. Nichols to Clyde Tolson, December 7, Morris Ernst on Cincinnati Situation and the Commission Concept for Studying the Communist Situation in the U.S. 4pp.

1954

- 0285 January. 285pp.
0566 February. 142pp.
0708 March. 210pp.
0894 SAC Letter No. 54-14, March 16, Name Checks and Fingerprint Requests from Municipalities. 1p.

Reel 7

FBI Responsibilities Program: Responsibilities of the FBI in the Internal Security Field cont. 1954 cont.

- 0001 March cont. 97pp.
0098 April. 245pp.
0162 A. H. Belmont to L. V. Boardman, April 13, Policy on Name Checks for State Governors and States Not Cooperating with Responsibilities Program. 3pp.
0205 L. V. Boardman to J. Edgar Hoover, April 2, Continuation of the Responsibilities Program. 8pp.
0295 Clyde Tolson to J. Edgar Hoover, April 16, April 15th FBI Executives' Conference regarding Continuation of the Responsibilities Program. 2pp.
0343 May. 146pp.
0343 Clyde Tolson to J. Edgar Hoover, May 3, May 3rd FBI Executives' Conference regarding Continuation of the Responsibilities Program. 3pp.
0352 SAC Letter No. 54-22, April 27, Re-Examination of Dissemination of Information and Decision to Discontinue Accepting Requests, from Selected Governors, for Information from FBI Sources. 1p.
0454 SAC Letter No. 54-26, May 18, Reporting of Criticism of Responsibilities Program and Procedures for Submitting Requests for Information. 1p. [page 23 only.]
0478 SAC Letter No. 54-26, May 18, Reporting of Criticism of Responsibilities Program and Procedures for Submitting Requests for Information. 1p. [page 22 only.]
0489 June. 156pp.
0645 July. 71pp.
0685 F. J. Baumgardner to A. H. Belmont, July 15, Instructions for Disseminating Information to Governors, Confidentiality of FBI Source, and Decision to Re-Confirm Security Card File Information [later in form of SAC Letter No. 54-38, July 27]. 2pp.
0716 August. 33pp.

- 0749 September. 119pp.
0808 SAC Letter No. 54-5, July 27, Instructions for Disseminating Information to Governors, Confidentiality of FBI Source, and Decision to Re-Confirm Validity of Information to Be Provided. 1p.
- 0868 October. 105pp.
0952 A. H. Belmont to L. V. Boardman, October 18, Decision to Suspend Dissemination of Information Due to Violations of FBI Confidence, until Decision by Attorney General on Possible Discontinuance of Program. 2pp.

Reel 8

FBI Responsibilities Program: Responsibilities of the FBI in the Internal Security Field cont. 1954 cont.

- 0001 October cont. 76pp.
0003 J. Edgar Hoover to Herbert Brownell, November 2, Explanation of Responsibilities Program and Similar Activities of Private and Professional Organizations. 5pp.
0009 J. Edgar Hoover to Herbert Brownell, October 13, Outline of Responsibilities Program, Criticism of Program, and Request for Judgement on Continuation of Program. 7pp. [2 pages have been withdrawn.]
0060 Memorandum to A. Rosen, October 22, regarding the Furnishing of FBI Information to Other Than Law Enforcement Agencies or Official Sources. 4pp.
- 0077 November. 114pp.
0084 J. Edgar Hoover to William P. Rogers, November 3, Transmitting October 28th Memorandum to Attorney General regarding Policy of Consideration of Dissemination of Information from the FBI to Agencies Outside the Executive Branch of Government. 17pp.
0162 SAC Letter No. 54-65, November 16, Reinstitution of Responsibilities Program in Selected States and Instructions for Submitting Requests. 2pp.
0171 A. H. Belmont to L. V. Boardman, November 10, Responsibilities Program Details. 20pp.
- 0191 November–December. 91pp. [The chronology of the documents is very erratic. This is partly due to the submittal of requests that had been held until a decision was reached on the reinstitution of the Responsibilities Program.]
- 0282 December. 167pp.
0325 SAC Letter No. [not discernable], [date not discernable], Instructions for Submitting Requests for Information. 2pp. [This may be SAC Letter 54-68, December 7.]

1955

- 0449 January–March. 294pp. [This file also contains miscellaneous materials regarding the dissemination of information between April 1955 and 1957.]
0450 A. H. Belmont to L. V. Boardman, March 31, Transmitting History of Responsibilities Program. 19pp.
0519 SAC Letter No. 55-9, February 4, Rules on Obtaining Signed Statements from Individuals Furnishing Derogatory and Disloyal Information during Investigation Cases. 4pp.
0650 SAC Letter No. 55-23, March 16, Bureau Security Programs and the Need for Responsible Handling of Information and Garnering of Public Trust. 1p.
0651 SAC Letter No. 55-21, March 10, Discontinuance of Responsibilities Program. 1p.

Dissemination of Information Policy File

This file grouping consists of official FBI memoranda and SAC letters highlighting the evolution and necessity for a policy on the dissemination of information outside the federal government. From May 1946 to February 1951, the FBI refined a series of informal policy statements allowing for a broader distribution of information on individuals suspected of Communist and/or subversive activities or alliances. SAC letters between March 1951 to 1954 define and outline the FBI's efforts at fine-tuning the Responsibilities Program. In addition, the policy guidance during this period highlights the degree to which this information was used on the state and local level in the name of preventing the subversion of the American system by Communists and Communist-sympathizers.

1946

0743 May. 1p.

1947

0744 April. 1p.

1948

0745 March. 5pp.
0750 April. 7pp.
0757 May. 9pp.
0766 June. 7pp.
0773 August. 5pp.
0778 September. 1p.
0779 October. 1p.
0780 November. 1p.
0781 December. 1p.

1949

0782 March. 1p.
0783 April. 1p.
0784 October. 6pp.
0790 December. 2pp.

1950

0792 June. 3pp.

1951

0795 March. 1p.
0796 April. 1p.
0797 May. 9pp.

1952

0806 January. 2pp.
0808 February. 8pp.
0816 October. 6pp.

1953

0822 June. 21pp.
0843 October. 4pp.
0847 November. 37pp.

File Folder Major Document
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1954

0884 March–April. 6pp.
0890 October. 7pp.

1955

0897 March. 5pp.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Confidential Files

Communist Activity in the Entertainment Industry

The “Do Not File” File

FBI Wiretaps, Bugs, and Break-ins

The J. Edgar Hoover Official and Confidential File

**The Louis Nichols Official and Confidential File
and the Clyde Tolson Personal File**

**McCarthy Era Blacklisting of School Teachers, College
Professors, and Other Public Employees**

U.S. Supreme Court and Federal Judges Subject Files