

PHILADELPHIA FAIR 'EXPOSES' F. B. I.

Angry Powelton Residents
Satirize Agents in Area

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PHILADELPHIA, June 5—
The Federal Bureau of Investigation received a good deal of unwanted attention today.

For about eight hours agents who have unsuccessfully sought to blend unnoticed into the Powelton community of Philadelphia near the University of Pennsylvania were the subjects of a street fair on "your F.B.I. in action."

Within the 24-square-block Powelton neighborhood there are more than 30 communes. Hundreds of antiwar and left-wing students, professionals and street people, black and white, live in its large row houses.

F.B.I. agents, many with head bands, bell bottoms and newly started beards, have been sighted throughout Powelton by residents ever since several hundred documents were taken from the F.B.I. office in nearby Media, Pa., on March 8.

The theft, which has not yet been solved, has greatly embarrassed the bureau because the documents have been released piecemeal to the press and interested groups by the anonymous Citizens Commission to Investigate the F.B.I., which says it took the files to expose bureau techniques of pervasive surveillance of non-criminal activity of the country's citizenry.

Many Residents Questioned

The bureau apparently has concentrated on Powelton on the theory that its residents were involved in the theft. Numerous residents have been questioned. Few have responded.

Instead, residents photograph the agents, follow them in cars and generally seek to make life miserable for them. They contend that sighting F.B.I. cars parked on Powelton streets is relatively easy because they have no letters, only numerals, on the license plates.

"Nobody else in Powelton stands around all day by their shiny new cars with two-way radios," said Robert Brand, a bearded social researcher. "The agents try to look like they think street people look. They try to infiltrate our groups or use city police to do so. The whole thing has brought all of us in Powelton together. People are openly saying no to the F.B.I."

The "fair" this afternoon and evening included a public auction of copies of the Media files. Pictures of bureau agents taken by Powelton residents adorned display boards. Bemused fairgoers accepted invitations to "be photographed with J. Edgar Hoover." A blow-up picture of Mr. Hoover, the bureau's director, was used as a back drop.

For the children, jigsaw puzzles of pictures of agents, backed by heavy cardboard, were distributed. Satirical skits based on what residents had read in the Media files or had observed of agents & activities in their community were shown on closed-circuit television in the 3600 block of Hamilton Street, closed to traffic for the occasion. Mr. Hoover was represented in a videotaped skit by a stuffed owl.

Posted notices in the neighborhood asked that "all F.B.I. personnel . . . leave their pistols at the 16th Precinct Station" at the edge of Powelton.

Food and beverages were sold with proceeds beyond expenses going to the Philadelphia Resistance, an antiwar group that the sponsors consider to be the most "harassed" organization here.

Invitation for Hoover

The day was festive, with impromptu concerts by a local band, guitar players and folk singers, Mr. Brand said Mr. Hoover had been invited but had not responded. Mr. Brand said at the outset that he expected disguised agents to be in attendance, however, "to see how their pictures turned out."

Powelton residents have responded to F.B.I. questions about the Media files with the comment that they know nothing about them.

They have posted notices warning of the bureau's presence and contending that the agents were "staked out in Fowelton village [for] political surveillance — harassing you and your neighbors, especially those of us who are actively working for social justice."

When the bureau got a search warrant and broke down the door to the apartment of Anne Flitcraft, 22-year-old worker for the pacifist American Friends Service Committee, on May 16, residents gathered outside to protest and continued the demonstration the next day at the bureau's downtown headquarters here, carrying signs saying, "Is Your Home Safe From the F.B.I.?"

Her door has been replaced, but the bureau still has not returned her typewriter, her "copies of copies" of the missing documents, notes for articles she intended to write on the bureau and the paper in which a present from her mother had been wrapped.

The next night Powelton residents set up an anti-F.B.I. alarm system. Boat horns, each of which can be heard for about two blocks, were distributed, to be blown in event of another raid so lawyers could be called at once and neighbors could hustle to the scene of the raid to offer support.