

THE FLINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU
OPERATIONS AGAINST THE U.S. LABOR PARTY

Jan. 30 (IPS) -- The following is a preliminary report on the Flint Police Department Special Operations Bureau, part of the Michigan "Corporate State" Gestapo apparatus, against the U.S. Labor Party. The report was prepared by the Flint, Michigan chapter of the Labor Organizer's Defense Fund (LODF) under the direction of attorney Max Dean. Dean has been a distinguished civil liberties and labor attorney in Michigan for the past thirty years.

On Jan. 26 and subsequently Dean and others testified before the Flint City Council on the matters described in this report, urging a complete investigation of Gestapo operations in Flint. After initial inquiries, during which the police department denied any criminal activities, the Council refused to pursue the investigation.

On Dec. 30, 1975 U.S. Labor Party organizer Paul J. Harcz, Jr. was attacked while organizing in the parking lot of the K-Mart outlet located in Mt. Morris Township at the corner of North Saginaw and Coldwater.

The assailant was William L. Browning, an agent-informant of the Flint Police Department's Special Operations Bureau. Contrary to the State Police report which depicted the incident as a mere scuffle arising over the sale of a newspaper, Browning attempted to murder Harcz using hand-to-hand combat techniques that he learned while in the armed services.

Browning had approached Harcz while Harcz was talking to an elderly black woman. Browning waited until Harcz had completed his conversation with the woman. He engaged Harcz in an amiable discussion about politics and socialism. In the course of the discussion, Browning indicated that he had worked for the United States government in a "sensitive" capacity inside the Soviet Union for 18 months.

Then without any warning or apparent cause, Browning attacked Harcz attempting to crush his windpipe and apply intense pressure to a pressure point behind Harcz's right ear. Harcz was kicked and punched repeatedly. Harcz was able to escape only because the shouts and screams of passerbys distracted Browning.

Browning followed Harcz into the lobby of the K-Mart. In front of witnesses, including U.S. Labor Party organizer Carol A. Efron, Browning threatened to attack Harcz again. Again, in front of witnesses, Browning threatened to shoot two other U.S. Labor Party members, Don Mullins and Mitchell Brown, who were taking down the license number of his automobile.

Browning then left, returning thirty minutes later after the State Police arrived at the scene. The first thing that the State troopers said as they approached Harcz and Efron was that they were not supposed to be organizing on the K-Mart premises. The two troopers identified themselves as Trooper Anthon and Trooper Johnson. There are no troopers by those names at State Police Post #35. They were driving a marked State Police vehicle #3518. On the basis of

the State Police report of the incident, we believe the troopers to be Trooper Juhaz and Trooper Curtis.

The two troopers took a brief report from Harcz and then spent thirty minutes with K-Mart manager James Grover and Browning. Harcz was then taken to Hurley Hospital for treatment of his wounds and l-rays.

The Dec. 30, 1975 attack against Harcz is the 20th assault on a U.S. Labor Party organizer in Genesee County in the past year. All assaults were reported to the police. Most were reported to the Flint Police Department, since the incidents occurred within the Flint city limits. Virtually all assault complaints made to the Flint Police Department were subsequently "investigated" by Sgt. Martin Ailsworth of the Special Operations Bureau.

On Jan. 13, 1976, Harcz was organizing at the gate of the Chevrolet V-8 Engine Plant on Van Slyke Rd. Browning, who is an employee in the plant, drove by, saw Harcz, and in the presence of witnesses threatened to shoot Harcz the next time he saw him. Harcz filed a complaint with the Flint Police Department. On Jan. 20, 1976 Harcz was contacted by Sgt. Ailsworth of the Special Operations Bureau who told him that nothing could be done about the incident.

Ailsworth appears to be the police officer assigned to monitor the activities of the U.S. Labor Party in Flint. Officials in the police department have been unable to explain why or how all cases involving the Labor Party are referred to Ailsworth, about whose conduct the Labor Party complained in a letter to then Chief of Police James Rutherford in Jan. 1975. The Special Operations Bureau handles all vice investigation, including narcotics, gambling, after-hours joints, prostitution, illegal firearms traffic, etc., etc. Presumably, the Labor Party's advocacy of worldwide economic development is a vice in the eyes of some in the Flint Police Department.

The Special Operations Bureau is the liaison unit with federal law enforcement agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Drug Enforcement Agency and others. Special Operations is also connected to the Genesee County Sheriffs, the State Police and the Genesee County Prosecutor's office. Special Operations has received an undetermined amount of money from the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). Ailsworth himself made the front page of the Flint Journal early in December 1975 following the arrest of an individual for the manufacture and sale of bombs. The arrest was made by agents from the ATF, the Genesee County Sheriff's Department and the Flint Police Department. This task force is overseen by agents in the Genesee County Prosecutor's office, operating under a large grant from the LEAA. Ailsworth was pictured in the Journal hooking up a detonator to dynamite seized in the raid. Ailsworth appears to be the Flint Police Department's "bomb" expert as well as their Labor Party expert. Ailsworth has received extensive training at federal law enforcement agency bomb schools.

Perhaps the close connection between Special Operations and the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office is responsible for the "seriousness" with which the Prosecutor has handled the case (against Browning -Ed. For over two weeks, the files on the case, including the State Police cover-up report, were lost somewhere in a Henry Stevens moving van in-between the old 67th District court offices and the new.

While the Dec. 30, 1975 attack on Harcz was the first direct contact the Labor Party had with Special Operations agent Browning, it was not the first time his name had come up. In Dec. 1974 and Jan. 1975, the Flint branch of the U.S. Labor Party was infiltrated by two agent-informers, Lacey D. Brown (or Lennie Brown) and Mary Ann Rugg. Brown had mentioned several times that he had a look-a-like named William L. Browning who was the only man he knew among all his friends and acquaintances who could "lick" him in a fight.

Lennie Brown and Mary Ann Rugg attended Labor Party meetings in Flint and Detroit for a two-month period. When Labor Party members objected to the propriety of Brown's bestial extra-marital affair with Rugg, both he and Rugg fell apart psychologically. Rugg called the U.S. Labor Party office in Detroit the next day to confess that she and Brown were agent-informers of the Flint Police Department Special Operations Bureau and the FBI. After Rugg had admitted that she and Brown were police-agents, Labor Party members found papers that Brown had inadvertently left behind in the Flint Labor Party office, including several essays for an English composition class at Mott College. Those essays revealed an intimate knowledge of the methods of the Special Operations "vice" details. In one of the essays entitled "Who Am I", Brown wrote "I have another side and role few people know about."

Brown was a fugitive from justice, having jumped parole in California where he had been arrested, convicted and jailed for attempted murder. Brown had a lengthy arrest record and had served several years in prison in at least three states. He indicated that he was also wanted for the murder of a law enforcement officer in North Carolina. Rugg told Labor Party members that Brown had become an undercover agent-informer for two reasons: to avoid extradition to California and incarceration for violating parole; and to become a police officer in effect, since his arrest record barred him from official employment by police departments or agencies. Rugg herself had murdered her own husband in the fall of 1974 following an argument, but had not been prosecuted by the Genesee County Prosecutor's office.

According to Rugg, she and Brown reported to the police on Labor Party meetings they attended, provided the police with the names of Labor Party members, supporters and contacts and compiled psychological profiles of Labor Party organizers. Brown had received extensive training in coercive group-therapy psychological practices from John Crane, director of the National Council on Alcoholism in Flint, Mich.

The fact that Brown was and is an agent of the Flint Police Special Operations Bureau was confirmed by Sgt. Martin Ailsworth who told Flint attorney and LODEF executive board member Max Dean that Brown "worked in Gilmore's group." Gilmore is a prominent member of the Special Operations Bureau LEAA-funded Intelligence Unit.

William Browning's role as an undercover agent was confirmed by another sergeant attached to Special Operations. This sergeant not only told Dean that Browning was an informant for Special Operations, but provided Dean with background biographical information on Browning. Like Lennie Brown, Browning's long record of arrests made it impossible for him to realize his ambition to obtain official employment with a police department or agency. Several arrests, including one for attempted murder and another for carrying a concealed weapon, appeared to have been "pleaded down" to lesser charges in exchange for Browning becoming a police agent-informant.

Browning is a repairman at the Chevy V-8 Engine plant. He works on the motor-line in Department 41. Workers in the V-8 Engine plant have told Labor Party members that Browning was under suspicion by his fellow workers as a police agent for a year or more. Browning was believed to have been dealing in drugs. Members of the shop committee have reported that Browning had a notoriously bad disciplinary record. During the lay-offs in 1974 and 1975, Browning worked as a para-medic for the Kearsley-Genesee Rescue Squad located at 7244 N. Genesee Rd. in Flint, Mich. Investigation by Labor Party researchers has uncovered the fact that many of the "volunteers" are informants and undercover agents for Special Operations. The Kearsley-Genesee Rescue Squad appears to be a cover-operation and a nexus-point for a large portion of the Special Operations Bureau agent-informant network.

Even after the publication of a Labor Party leaflet naming Browning as an undercover agent, he continues to be utilized by the Flint Police Department. On Jan. 12, 1976 Brown and Browning met with Lt. William Foley of Special Operations in Foley's office in the Police Department basement. On Jan. 16, 1976 Browning was seen in a city vehicle with a member of the Special Operations Intelligence Unit.

In all probability, the Dec. 30, 1975 murder attempt against U.S. Labor Party organizer Harcz was a National Security Council directed test-case, conduited through the FBI and "farmed out" to an informant attached to the FBI-connected Special Operations unit. The founder of Special Operations, now assistant chief of police Louis Szabo, is a graduate of the FBI Academy. The use of intelligence community "stringers" for dirty-tricks and political assassinations is a practice with which the American people have become all too familiar through such persons as Lee Harvey Oswald, James Earl Ray and most recently Sarah Jane Moore. Since these agents are "mere" informants, if their identities are traced back to the relevant police agencies, the agencies then simply state that they cannot possibly be held responsible for crimes committed by "mere" informants.

At present, the entire city government of Flint and much of the community is in an uproar over the shooting of police-woman Madeline Fletcher by her fellow police officers several weeks ago. A special Justice Department Community Relations Service Team has been brought in to "investigate" the matter. Everyone is saying that there must be adequate psychological testing of police officers ... the people of Flint must be protected against psycho-

tics becoming police officers and abusing the powers inherent in their positions.

But what about the psychotics employed by the Special Operations Bureau of the Flint Police Department? Do not the people of Flint deserve to be protected against them? If ordinary patrolmen are being asked to pass psychological fitness tests, what about the murderers and drug-pushers employed by Special Operations? In a telephone conversation with attorney Dan Bremer of Eastern Michigan Legal Services, City Councilman John Northrup said that due to the fact that he doubted the veracity of the Labor Party's spokesman in general, it was his opinion that Labor Party members would be provided less police protection than the average citizen. Psychological testing for murderers and drug-pushers? Why bother, they're "mere" informants.

The deployment of Special Operations "stringers" against Labor Party organizers has weighty enough implications in itself. During the 1950's the FBI illegally directed a terror campaign against persons suspected of left-wing beliefs. Accompanied by the slanders of the Flint Journal, the FBI directed beatings, bombings and killings against Flint-area leftists using company goons and police stringers, knowing full well that neither the Flint Police nor the Genesee County Prosecutor's office would do a damn thing. Of course, recently, Congressional investigating committees have revealed the FBI's role in massive dirty-tricks, harassment and intimidation programs directed against civil rights, anti-war and other political activists in the 1960's. The Flint Police Special Operations Bureau maintains trained killers as "mere" informants who can be and have been deployed against Labor Party organizers, union militants and community activists. This gestapo-Brazilian death squad operations must be fully investigated and shut down immediately.

The hit-squads are not the only capability of the Special Operations Bureau. Their network of agent-informants, numbering in all probability into the hundreds, infests every community, every auto plant and every secondary school in the city. High-placed city officials intimately acquainted with Flint Police Department practices have told Labor Party organizers that the Special Operations agent-informant network is responsible for much of, if not most of, the crime in Flint!

Under the guise of offering murderers, drug-pushers and other criminals immunity from prosecution if they agree to function as Special Operations informants, the Flint Police Department has thus given their official sanction to the numerous breaking-and-enterings, the numerous assaults, the numerous drug-transactions and other crimes committed by their informants. Being a Special Operations informant entitles one to a virtual license to break the law, knowing that in the event of an arrest one's controller-agent from the police department basement will step in to obtain one's release. The Genesee County Prosecutor's Office, dependent as they are upon the "intelligence" provided them by the Special Operations Bureau Intelligence Unit, is completely complicitous with this operation!

While members of the Special Operations Bureau have said that their informants are "volunteers" not paid by city tax dollars, it is highly unlikely that they turn their tricks entirely for free. Special Operations maintains money and contraband amassed in raids and "donated" by sister agencies from the federal government. After "vice" and narcotics arrests, the property room rarely contains all the contraband seized in the raids. Instead the contraband, including narcotics and illegal firearms, is used to maintain the "positions", "covers" and "businesses" of informant drug-pushers and informant illegal-gun dealers.

While maintaining their covers as drug-pushers by continuing to push drugs in the community, police informants attached to the Special Operations Bureau actually constitute a major network for the sale and distribution of illegal narcotics!

The immunity from prosecution if arrested is not the informant's only protection. Through his close association with the police, the informant - criminal acquires enough "working knowledge" of police procedures to be able to commit crimes without even getting arrested.

The Special Operations Bureau has been in existence for close to ten years. Throughout that period, its agents have compiled illegal dossiers on Flint residents suspected of crimes or targeted for harassment or blackmail. Files are maintained on trade union leaders and public officials. Special Operations Intelligence Sgt. James Hamilton has such bugging expertise that he manufactures and sells surveillance equipment to the FBI!

The Special Operations Bureau of the Flint Police Department is a twofold operation: First, in connection with the FBI office here headed by Special Agent Jack Duvall, and through their massive network of agents, informants and spies in the community and in the plants, Special Operations functions as a major instrument of social control. After key activist or potential activists are targeted by the spy network, the psychotics and murderers employed by the Bureau are deployed for assaults and attempted murders or other, lesser, forms of political harassment. Second, in connection with the ATF office here and other federal agencies, and through the protection offered drug-pushers, robbers and other criminals by virtue of their status as police-informers for Special Operations, Special Operations functions to maintain crime rather than to combat it! Hence, it is also a major instrument of crime maintenance! What a mockery of law enforcement!

There must be a full investigation of this network. Genesee County Prosecutor Robert Leonard is supposed to be the chief law enforcement officer in Genesee County. He himself is a prominent figure even nationally, serving as the first national Vice President of the National Association of District Attorneys, an organization closely connected to the office of the U.S. Attorney General Edward Levi. Through the LEAA-funded Organized Crime Task Force, Leonard's office is directly connected to the Special Operations Bureau's illegal activities, such as the political dirty tricks and surveillance, the compilation of illegal dossiers on Flint residents and the maintenance of crime through the aforementioned criminal-informant network.

Robert Leonard has a sacred responsibility to the constitution of the United States, to the laws of the State of Michigan and to the people of Genesee County. The law is being broken on a major scale by the very organizations that have been empowered to enforce it!

There must be a full investigation, resulting in full disclosure of illegal files and dirty-tricks programs. This criminal operation must be shut down. The guilty must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The people of Flint must be protected against any further such hideous abuses of their constitutional rights!

If there is no investigation, if there are no disclosures, if there are no prosecutions, if this criminal operation is not shut down, it is because there is a massive cover-up going on instead! Any public official who attempts to justify the above-cited activities of the Special Operations Bureau on the grounds that they constitute "standard law enforcement practice" is merely trying to save his own skin!

Finally, the FBI and National Security Council links to this entire operation must be more fully uncovered and exposed!