

Uncle Sam watches you

by DICK GREGORY

Those who look for signs of increasing police state maneuvers in America are fond of citing such things as the "no-knock" section of the Controlled Dangerous Substances Act of 1969, the continued presence of concentration camps, the McCarran Act with its vague reference to "possible" saboteurs, or the FBI computer banks on groups and individuals. Few Americans are aware, however, of the extent to which the U.S. Army has engaged in, and perfected, the highly technical art of citizen-watching.

Christopher H. Pyle, who recently completed two years service as a captain in Army intelligence, had an eye-opening glimpse at the role and results of soldier-agent activities in a special article for **The Miami (Fla.) Herald**. All of Mr. Pyle's information is unclassified and comes from briefings, interviews and observations made during his years of service.

IF THE average American is aware of these soldier-agents at all, Mr. Pyle suggests they are known "only" as personable young men whose principle function is to conduct background investigations of persons being considered for security clearances." But soldier-agents have had much more varied roles.

Says Mr. Pyle: "Military undercover agents have posed as press photographers covering anti-war demonstrations, as students on college campuses, and as 'residents' of Resurrection City. They have even recruited civilians into their service — sometimes for pay but more often through appeals to patriotism." So Uncle Sam might not only be watching you; he might also have your best friend gathering the information!

You don't even have to be a militant radical to make the Army files. "Today, the Army maintains files on the membership, ideology, programs, and practices of virtually every activist political group in the country," Mr. Pyle warns. "These include not only such violence-prone organizations as the Minutemen and the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), but such non-violent groups as the Southern

Christian Leadership Conference, Clergy and Laymen United Against the War in Vietnam, the American Civil Liberties Union, Women Strike for Peace, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

MR. PLYE'S article raises a number of issues which should cause alarm to Americans who still feel that some degree of personal privacy is close to an inalienable right.

One is the highly developed technology of Army information gathering about the doings of the private citizenry. The Army now has an extensive teletype reporting system which will soon be linked to a computerized data bank. The computer, to be installed at the Investigative Records Repository at Fort Holabird in Baltimore, will be able to produce instant print-outs of information in 96 separate categories.

At the present time, the Army periodically issues an eight-by-ten inch glossy-covered paperback booklet which is a sort of encyclopedia of profiles of persons and organizations who, in the opinion of the Intelligence Command officials who compile it, might "cause trouble for the Army." Mr. Pyle says the booklet is known in Army circles as "the blacklist," similar to the less formal lists the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has kept up to make sure politically unpopular scientists don't get research contracts or consultant work.

THE ARMY computer bank will differ from similar stores of information now in use at the FBI's National Crime Information Center in Washington and New York State's Identification and Intelligence System in Albany. Such computer banks are restricted to the case histories of persons arrested or convicted of crimes. The Army's bank will contain files devoted exclusively to describing the lawful political activity of civilians.

The Army intelligence file differs in another respect. It is not subject to congressional or presidential oversight and thereby enjoys uninhibited freedom for growth. Yet the Army file is located in one of the government's main libraries of security clearance information and access to it is not limited to Army personnel. Personality files can be readily available to any federal agency issuing security clearances, conducting investigations or enforcing laws.

Mr. Pyle closes his article with a quote from John Stuart Mill spoken over a century ago. Mill said:

"A state which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands, even for beneficial purposes, will find that with small men no great things can really be accomplished..."

Perhaps it would be well to carry John Stuart Mill's

observation a bit further. The small men of history, those of insane vision and limited morality, who eventually succeeded in destroying their own nations, always began their insane exploits by setting up police state measures which specialized in keeping close

watch on the citizenry. Then individual rights and eventually any semblance of human freedom disappeared. Mill is right. No really great things can be accomplished in such an atmosphere. Only loud, noisy, clamorous and sure destruction.

★ ★ ★ RAPPING ★ ★ ★

Dear Sir:

An article, "Homosexuals hassled at NU", that appeared in the Rag on Friday, February 6, carried statements about Counseling Center policy that are absolutely erroneous.

Our policy and practice is described on an information sheet that is posted on the door to the Center with additional copies on the coffee table in our waiting area. It reads as follows:

From time to time, the University Counseling Service receives requests from outside agencies for information about students who have sought our services. Information about students is held confidential and will remain so with but two exceptions: (1) where files may be subpoenaed by a court of law (this has not happened, to our knowledge, in Nebraska, and we know of only two or three instances in other states); (2) where a student signs a release to the Counseling Service, for the transmission of test scores to a

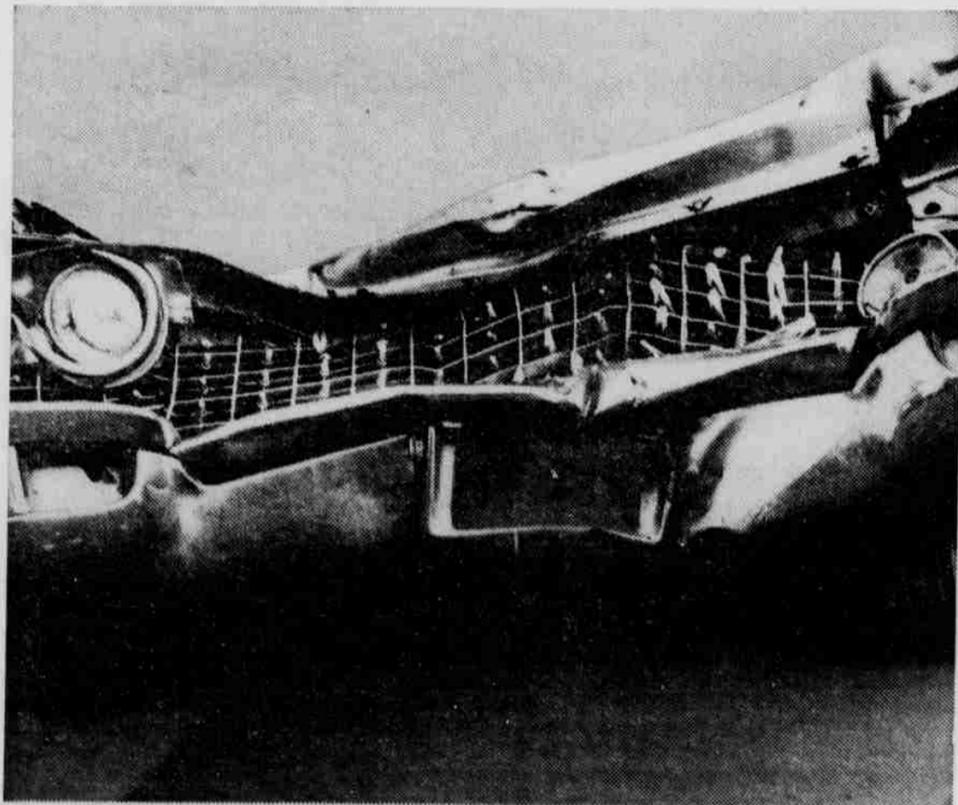
qualified psychologist (as might be the case in applying for graduate study).

Notes made by counselors following an interview usually contain rather subjective impressions and are intended to be nothing more than that — subjective impressions. Because Counseling Service policy permits only the transmission of objective information (i.e., test scores), counselors' notes or recollections cannot be communicated to persons not on the staff of the University Counseling Service, even where a signed release has been provided by the student concerned.

On those occasions where a student seeks assistance from an agency similar to the University Counseling Service, the usual professional courtesies can be observed.

Any student with any problem can continue to come to the Counseling Center assured that what he says will remain confidential.

Harry J. Canon
Director,
University Counseling Service



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