

VOICE

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Harry's Coming! See back page

Flint Police Belong to Secret Surveillance Unit

by Doug Cunningham

The Flint Voice has learned that the Flint Police Department maintained at least one LEIU file card containing noncriminal information on a Flint area resident, despite official denials by both Flint Mayor James Rutherford and Police Chief Max Durbin that they have any knowledge of such activity.

LEIU is a secret police intelligence gathering network that compiles computerized dossiers on thousands of Americans. There is a growing national controversy concerning LEIU, or Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit, concerning the files it maintains on political activists. Its a private police club that operates nationwide. It has since 1956.

The Flint Police Department has been a LEIU member since 1965. Other LEIU members in Michigan include the state police, Detroit and Warren police departments and the Attorney General's office.

Up until at least 1973 LEIU's central computer terminal was located at the Michigan State Police post in East Lansing. LEIU claims it restricts its activities to criminal investigations and intelligence gathering, especially involving organized crime. But that isn't true.

According to Flint city Ombudsman Joe Dupcza the Flint police kept an LEIU file card containing information about the travels and political affiliations of a Flint woman as recently as 1976. "I personally saw an LEIU card," Dupcza told the VOICE. He said it was kept in the Special Operations Bureau (SOB) section.

The SOB is responsible for intelligence work within the Flint Police Department.

Elsewhere evidence that conclusively proves the political focus of LEIU is coming to light as well. In Chicago, the police spying lawsuit "Alliance to End Repression vs. James Grady" has forced the disclosure of eight actual LEIU file cards like the one Dupcza saw on political activists.

Those cards contain passages like:
*"...is a recognized leader in peace movements."

*"Has assisted in organizing many radical groups and publications in the



Consumers Power employee taking pictures of each demonstrator

"When you had your Sunny Day thing or whatever it was, we were certainly there watching,"

— Flint Police Chief Max Durbin commenting on the police surveillance of the anti-nuclear "Sun Day" march on May 3, 1978

southern U.S."

*"Marxist scholar, political activist, leader within the Seattle Liberation Front, present at many demonstrations in Seattle, University of Washington has refused to renew his contract."

*"...is an ex-Catholic nun who has been very active in various phases of the peace movement in the state. She also participated in the May Day Movement which caused great disruption in Washington, D.C. in May, 1971."

*"...active in labor strikes within the Gulf Coast Pulpwood Association."

These cards were contributed to

the LEIU network by six different local police departments from around the country between 1971 and 1976. They included pictures and physical descriptions of the victims, their home addresses (and in one case the address of the person's parents), descriptions of their cars and names of their "associates", who in many cases also had LEIU files as a result of their association with the target person. Fingerprints were included when available. Stamped in the corner of some of the cards was the notation: "For use by LEIU members in accordance with the LEIU constitution and bylaws."

In Houston, Texas, a new mayor discovered after taking office that the police there had carried out ten years of political spying. There were files in that police department's Criminal Investigation Division on over 1,000 noncriminals, including the mayor himself.

When a federal judge sequestered the files, including a full set of LEIU files, the LEIU kicked the Houston Police Department out of the network for letting the files "fall into the hands of civilians."

A member of the Houston police force remarked, "Often just being controversial was enough to earn

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