

FRANKLIN

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WHO REALLY FIRED BRUCE FRANKLIN?

By HERB BOROCK

(NOTE: All quotations are from FBI documents.)

Nearly five years after Stanford's Board of Trustees fired English Professor H. Bruce Franklin, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has released documents that reveal that the FBI anonymously mailed copies of news clippings and circulars about Franklin to the trustees to encourage them "to take some positive action against such a person as FRANKLIN ... and insist that FRANKLIN be removed from his position at Stanford."

The FBI mailing occurred in June 1969, a year-and-a-half before Stanford President Richard Lyman initiated the year-long disciplinary proceedings against Franklin. The mailing included copies of documents bearing the return address of the Young American for Freedom chapter on campus.

Other FBI memos show that the FBI: used San Francisco Examiner reporter Ed Montgomery to create the articles the FBI later mailed to the trustees; investigated witnesses who appeared on Franklin's behalf during his disciplinary hearing before Stanford's Faculty Advisory Board; and obtained its copy of Franklin's opening statement before the Advisory Board from the Stanford Chaparral, "a quasi-official humor magazine."

EARLY HISTORY

The FBI began its surveillance of Franklin in 1966 following his outspoken opposition to the Vietnam War, his membership in the Stanford Committee for Peace in Vietnam ("a student-professor pacifist-type organization"), and his participation in lawful protest activities against a napalm plant in Redwood City. On March 9, 1967 the FBI's San Francisco Field Office recommended that

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Franklin be included in Section A of the Reserve Index, an administrative aid maintained by the FBI to monitor persons who would be of importance to the FBI in the event of a national emergency.

The FBI's Reserve Index included all individuals known to have affiliation or sympathy with the Communist Party and persons in some way associated with revolutionary groups other than the Communist Party. The FBI's Manual of Instructions indicated that Section A of the Reserve Index was to be composed of persons who met the Reserve Index criteria and who were educators, labor officials, entertainers, media personalities, lawyers, doctors, scientists, and other potentially influential persons.

By May 1968 Franklin's name had been moved from the Reserve Index to the Security Index. As a Security Index subject, Franklin would be apprehended and detained under the provisions of the Emergency Detention Act, as a person dangerous to the internal security during a national crisis. The Security Index classification meant that Franklin was included in Priority One of the Priority Apprehension Program, since he was employed by Stanford University, a facility designated vital to the national defense by the Department of Defense.

The FBI initially included Franklin in their Reserve Index and Security Index despite the fact that he had never been arrested or charged with any crime. The FBI's May 6, 1969 quarterly report on Franklin noted that he had been acquitted the previous month of charges stemming from a demonstration the previous November, but recommended keeping Franklin in the Security Index because "he is reportedly one of the founders of the RU [Revolutionary Union], a Marxist-Leninist organization, that adheres to the policies of MAO Tse-tung."

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FBI WANTED FRANKLIN FIRED

On May 14, 1969 FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wrote his San Francisco office that "Franklin, in his position of Associate Professor of English at Stanford University, represents one of the most militant radical extremists on American campuses, and his background has been well documented publicly."

One of the public documents Hoover referred to was a March 23, 1969 article by Ed Montgomery in the San Francisco Sunday Examiner & Chronicle that claimed to describe Franklin's revolutionary objectives. Hoover couldn't have been surprised when he read that article, since he had requested that such an article be written.

In February 1969 Hoover suggested that a "cooperative news media source" interview Franklin about his relationship with "his 'close associate' who lived in China and a 'young friend' who had served in the Red Guard." Montgomery subsequently interviewed Franklin, and his March 23 article identified the "close associate" as William Howard Hinton, and the "young friend" as Christopher Milton.

Hoover proposed on May 14, 1969 that a pamphlet about Franklin be prepared and "be anonymously posted to all members of the Board of Trustees of Stanford, to selected alumnus, and other appropriate individuals including the Governor, senators and congressmen of California."

The San Francisco office replied on May 20 that "a circular made from duplicating MONTGOMERY'S article ... is being distributed in the Palo Alto-Stanford area." The circular advised that additional copies could be obtained from P.O. Box 3697, Stanford, California, which the FBI noted "is a Box on the Stanford University Campus utilized by the Young Americans for Freedom,"

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The local FBI requested authority to distribute copies of both the March 23 article and another Montgomery article that appeared coincidentally on May 19, four days after Hoover's request for a pamphlet or brochure on Franklin. The two articles would be mailed to "selected individuals having apparent influence over the Stanford Staff and Faculty, urging them to use this influence to rid Stanford of this menace to the democratic future of their children."

Apparently Hoover approved the mailing. On October 31, 1969 the San Francisco office reported that since June 1969 both Montgomery articles had been sent to the trustees, selected alumni, and local political figures. Again the FBI noted that the mailing "appears to have its origin with ... the Young Americans for Freedom."

It is not clear from the FBI memos whether the Stanford YAF chapter knowingly cooperated with the FBI in this endeavor. Key portions of the memos have been deleted, and the FBI never assigns responsibility for the original distribution of Montgomery's March 23 article. However, the circular says that more copies of the reprinted article can be obtained by writing to the YAF post office box, and the FBI's May 20 memo requested "authority to prepare additional Xerox copies of the enclosed 3/29/69 circular and attach it to Xerox copies of the ED MONTGOMERY article dated 5/19/69." (Emphasis added.) Why the word "additional" if the FBI had not participated in the preparation of the original circular?

ADVISORY BOARD HEARINGS

The FBI was aware that their anonymous mailing had "little effect with the Trustees as FRANKLIN continues as Assistant (sic) Professor in the English Department and is still active in RU activities." Throughout 1970 they devised a number of so-called "counter-intelligence" operations with the objective of
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"neutralizing" Franklin and the RU. By the end of 1970 the FBI had not been successful.

However, early in 1971 Stanford President Richard Lyman filed charges before the Faculty Advisory Board to fire Franklin for his alleged role in demonstrations against Henry Cabot Lodge and the U.S. invasion of Laos. We don't know whether the Advisory Board members received the FBI mailings or were influenced by anyone who did. But the FBI mailed Montgomery's articles to the trustees who made the decision to fire Franklin. And the FBI was busy throughout the Advisory Board hearings.

On November 17, 1971 Hoover told the San Francisco FBI office that four persons (including GRAPEVINE staffer Lenny Siegel) had appeared as witnesses for Franklin. Hoover requested the local FBI to determine whether these witnesses were members of Franklin's "Venceremos Organization (VO) or other subversive organizations." He also asked the local office to "identify other individuals who have appeared as witnesses on behalf of Franklin, at the current hearing, to determine if they are affiliated with the VO or engaged in subversive activities."

The previous month the local FBI office had mailed Hoover a copy of Franklin's opening comments before the Advisory Board. They had to get their copy from the Stanford Chaparral, which was the only Stanford publication that printed Franklin's entire remarks. Although the Chaparral was then a news weekly opposed to the University's administrators and trustees, the FBI referred to it as a "campus humor magazine."

FRANKLIN'S ACLU SUIT

For the past four years the American Civil Liberties Union has been representing Franklin in his attempt to be reinstated at Stanford with back

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pay. The ACLU may be able to use the FBI memos to question the trustees about how they arrived at their decision to fire Franklin. Stanford is preparing to answer such questions. Bob Beyers, ~~an ACLU member and~~ Director of Stanford's News and Publications Department, has written for a copy of the FBI documents Franklin released to the press.

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ABOUT 1300 words in all. Oliphant cartoon on FBI attached, return to PSC after using. WITHOUT "EARLY HISTORY" section, ABOUT 1000 words. Of course I'd like it all kept together. The quotations are as they appear in the FBI memos, complete with capitalizations and wrong words.

cut primitives

- ① EARLY HISTORY - All of it
- ② next to last ~~to~~ (summary phrase in #3 on chapter)
- ③ last ~~to~~