

SAC, San Francisco

2/5/69

Director, FBI

HOWARD BRUCE FRANKLIN  
INTERNAL SECURITY - REVOLUTIONARY UNION (RU)  
(NATIONALITIES INTELLIGENCE)

ReBulet 1/28/69 forwarding the text of a lecture given by the subject on 1/23/69, at a forum of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) at the Madison Hotel, Washington, D. C.

On 1/30/69, Franklin and John A. Howard, President, Rockford College, appeared at the final session of the three-part AEI series at the Madison Hotel to present individual rebuttals to their initial presentations and to answer questions from the audience.

Enclosed is a Xerox copy of the transcript of Franklin's 13-page formal rebuttal presented on 1/30/69. Information appearing in this document, as well as the following comments, may be used as you deem pertinent in the next investigative report submitted on Franklin.

Franklin appeared at the 1/30/69 session dressed in a sports coat with contrasting slacks and a red turtleneck shirt. Although the audience was generally critical of his position he was afforded all possible courtesies and considerable applause. He responded to questions freely, exhibiting wit and it was obvious he had carefully researched and documented many of his arguments.

During the question and answer session, Franklin responded to a query by stating "my arguments are subversive . . . whether or not you react to these arguments depends on who you are (working class or power structure). . . my argument is 'the people must control.'" When asked if his concern was with working class (communists) control of the colleges, or with the entire country, he reiterated "Whoever runs the universities runs the society!" making no pretense of his advocacy of a communist government for the United States.

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In response to a direct question as to his organizational affiliation, Franklin stated he was a "communist, a revolutionary and a Marxist-Leninist." Indicating he had been a member of the Democratic Party, and more recently the Peace and Freedom Party, he said he never had been affiliated with the Communist Party which he characterized as not a revolutionary group. When the questioner persisted and asked him if he was affiliated with any organization on the campus, he responded affirmatively stating "We have the Peninsula Red Guard (at Stanford University) but this is not a political party yet." He continued by stating all his social and political contacts at the present time are with working class people. Stating the working class represented approximately 80 per cent of the population, he presented the following definition: "A member of the working class is the person who only exists by selling his labor to someone who controls the means of production."

Franklin was asked if his students subscribed to his revolutionary thoughts and ideas. Franklin admitted his was a minority position but stated the present philosophy of his students was more in line with his own philosophy of a year ago. He admitted to working with student activists and stated these students who were associated with the radical left were better able to analyze and define ideological problems than those present in the audience. He said an increasing number of students are making the decision to be professional revolutionaries and rejecting the role they were supposed to portray.

In his summation, Franklin stated ideological knowledge only serves the class that uses it. His arguments can only be met by the working class. He received better arguments from student audiences. There can be no rational dialogue among opposing classes. He contends Marxists do not believe capitalism is bad, only that it is good up to a point. Capitalism has released the resources that enabled man to meet his needs. The time has come when the contradictions in capitalism make it irrational and in need of replacement. He described this revolutionary process as increasing and typified by student participation.

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It is anticipated the Bureau will receive the complete text of the question and answer session and when this is received it will be forwarded.

For information.