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Dear Harold,

This might have some
interest. It was not in
The J. a. Times -

Sincerely

Paul
Hope your health is
improving -

P

Snooping

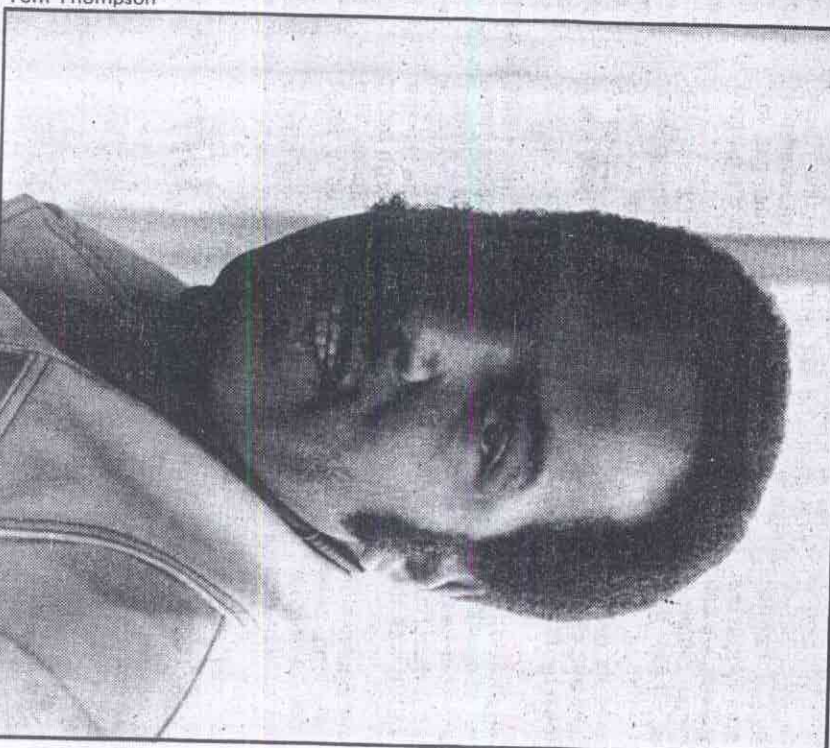
Black politicians, KPFB bugged, testifies FBI informant

TOM THOMPSON

"From 1970 through 1975, I worked as a paid agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I was recruited by the FBI by (special agent) Brandon Cleary, presently of the Los Angeles office of the FBI, in 1970 by the threat of having me arrested for violating the terms of a state probation."

His name is Darthard Maurice Edward Perry, aka Ed Riggs, Bill Perry, John Garrison, Othello and Crackerjack. He is 27 years old. For the last five years he has been an informant for the FBI. During that time, and at the direction of the bureau, he claims he has conducted surveillance on numerous black elected officials including Assemblyperson Leon Ralph, California Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally and Congressperson Ronald Dellums.

He has placed listening devices (bugs) in the offices of Assemblyperson Ralph and at radio station KPFB. He has conducted surveillance of scores of community meetings and events, using his position as video cameraperson for the Watts Writers Workshop as a cover. He has conducted surveillance on SLA safehouses and has distributed radical literature given him by the FBI which explains how to construct a "simple time-bomb," how to build a "self-igniting Molotov cocktail" and how to manufac-



Tom Thompson

ture "people's hand grenades." The government, caught in the embarrassing position of having yet another agent reveal the innermost secrets of their clandestine operations, reluctantly admits that Darthard Perry was one of their own. Forced into that admission before Federal Judge Matt Byrne Jr., Asst. U.S. Attorney John K. Cameron stated that there is "no dispute that Mr. Perry has worked as an informant for the FBI."

In a series of taped interviews and signed affidavits, Darthard Perry has spelled out his career and activities as an FBI informant for the Free Press, attorneys for KPFB, Assemblyperson Leon Ralph, Lt. Gov. Dymally, Congressperson Dellums and the Congressional Black Caucus.

According to those statements, Perry began his career in 1970 as an FBI informant while he was attending Sacramento City College. He was arrested for receiving stolen property and offered a deal by FBI special agent Brandon Cleary: If Perry would become an informant and conduct surveillance on various political groups and individuals in the Sacramento area, the FBI would see that he did not go to jail. Perry agreed and was given three years probation.

While in Sacramento, Perry,

using the name John Garrison, took photographs of community meetings of members of the Black Panther party, the Black Student Union and black elected officials. On one occasion, Perry states, he placed a listening device in the offices of Assemblyperson Ralph, at the

Central Los Angeles. Perry contends that the FBI had directed him to watch that house three days before the shootout that claimed the lives of six SLA members. "Three days before the shootout I saw several peo-

direction of the FBI.

In 1971 Perry moved to Los Angeles to attend Los Angeles City College; he was also hopeful that his days as an FBI informant were over. He was wrong. Once in Los Angeles, he was contacted by FBI special agent Will Heaton, who told him that by moving to L.A. Perry had violated his parole and that if he was to avoid going to prison he would have to resume his activities as the eyes and ears of the bureau. It wasn't much of a choice. "I didn't want to go to jail; people die in jail."

Perry had studied theatre in Sacramento and used that experience to infiltrate the Watts Writers Workshop using the alias Ed Riggs, where he eventually headed the video department. In that capacity he had access to virtually any organization or group within the black community. His cover was good, and until he decided to tell his story no one at the workshop even suspected him. Harry Dolen, founder of the Watts Writers Workshop, when first approached about Perry, stated, "It's hard to believe, he was just a nice kid; it's hard to think of him as an agent." Dolen added, "He had carte blanche access to the community."

This access to the community provided the FBI with a perfect opportunity. Often using video equipment supplied by agent Heaton, Perry taped scores of meetings and turned the tapes over to the FBI, where, according to Perry's statements, the tapes were then sent to the FBI's training facility at Quantico, Va., for study.

During this time, he taped Assemblyperson Ralph's Los Angeles field office on at least three occasions, using the guise of preparing a documentary for the Watts Writers Workshop.

Another of Perry's Los Angeles assignments was the surveillance of suspected SLA "safe houses," one of which turned out to be the death-house on 54th Street in South

ple entering and leaving the house: two white chicks, a white dude and a black dude. The white chicks were Emily Harris and Patty Hearst; I think the white dude was Bill Harris, and the black dude was definitely Cinque (Donald DeFreeze)."

Perry contends that when he saw the SLA fugitives entering the house, he called agent Heaton and asked what he should do. Heaton allegedly told him, "Don't do anything, we'll take it from here."

Perry kept the house under surveillance for the next two days and on the day of the shootout was told it would no longer be necessary for him to continue watching the house. "I was at a friend's house when the shooting came down and called the FBI to see what was going on. Heaton told me the LAPD had stumbled onto the location when a narcotics undercover officer working the area noticed the suspects in the house. He told me the LAPD had fucked everything up."

According to Perry's account, Patty Hearst and the Harrises listened to the shootout a few blocks away from the death-house in another safe house provided by the mother of one of DeFreeze's prison contacts. The trio remained in the Los Angeles area for several days following the shootout until

things had quieted down and they could arrange safe passage out of the city. It was during this time that Perry believes the SLA made the tape that was later delivered to KPFK. According to Perry, the delivery of the tape was made by a black female member of the Black Liberation Army (BLA), and the FBI had knowledge of the transaction.

Bugging KPFK

Shortly after radio station KPFK received an audio-tape from the SLA in June of 1974, Perry, who had been working on the SLA case in the black community, was assigned to tape and bug the station's offices. "In 1974, at the request of Will Heaton, I was asked to conduct surveillance on Will Lewis (general manager) and KPFK. As part of the surveillance, Will Heaton provided me with a miniature transmitter and videotape porta-pak and asked me to place the transmitter in Will Lewis's office and videotape the offices of KPFK. Will Heaton told me that the FBI wanted to find out how deeply involved Will Lewis and KPFK were with the SLA and other radical groups, and that they wanted a diagram of the station.

"Acting at the request of the FBI, I visited the offices of KPFK on the pretext of doing a story
(please turn to page 23)

(continued from page 7)

for the Watts Writers Workshop and while there placed the transmitter I had been given by Will Heaton in the well of Will Lewis's desk. I also extensively photographed the offices of KPFK. . . . Upon completion of this task, I reported to Will Heaton, turned over the videotape to him and received his congratulations on a job well done. He told me that the transmission was coming in 'loud and clear' and that the pictures were fine."

It was shortly after the bugging of KPFK that Perry decided to sever his relationship with the FBI. He contacted several persons, including Will Lewis and the *Free Press*, to tell his story. "Since that time, I have been subjected to harassment by the FBI and the Los Angeles Police Department."

That "harassment" included a week in jail when the authorities pulled Perry's string and finally charged him with parole violation for the incident in Sacramento. In addition, Perry was charged with forgery and insufficient funds for checks he had written "at the direction of the FBI to buy food for radical groups to gain their confidence."

When Perry threatened to bring the FBI into court as part of his defense, the probation violation charge from Sacramento was dropped and so was the forgery charge in Los Angeles. He was finally convicted of having insufficient funds in his checking account, told to make restitution and placed on three years probation.

"That week in jail convinced me that I had to get out and that I was going to get them for what they did to me," states Perry. "I was threatened, drugged, and they tried to get me to sign statements refuting what I was telling people about the FBI."

Court Confession

Darhard Perry's first open court appearance concerning his FBI affiliation occurred last week during the trial of Los Angeles businessperson John David Gardner, who is accused of income tax evasion. During Perry's surveillance activities, Gardner had been one of his targets, and Perry was in court to testify for the defense in a motion to dismiss the charges against Gardner.

FBI special agent Will Heaton

admitted that Perry had worked for the FBI, but the bureau and the U.S. Attorney disputed the length of time and the type of work Perry had been assigned to. Heaton told the court that Perry had come "to the FBI to volunteer his services" on Feb. 12, 1974. According to agent Heaton, Perry told the FBI he could provide information on radicals, especially the Black Panther party, the BLA, the SLA and other radical groups, especially those operating within the black community. That relationship was "terminated March 31, 1975," according to agent Heaton, because Perry was "emotionally unstable, unreliable and provided false information."

For an informant who was "unreliable" and "emotionally unstable," Perry enjoyed an extremely close relationship with the FBI and Heaton. Under

direct examination, Heaton admitted that he was in contact with Perry "by phone" at least "once" every week and "in person" at least "once" each week. Heaton also admitted that he gave Perry two birth certificates of babies who had died shortly after birth to give to radicals who were seeking new identities. Perry contends he was given at least 10 birth certificates to distribute among radicals looking for false I.D., in the hope that those persons would use the false birth certificates to get driver's licenses and allow the FBI to maintain surveillance on those people.

Community Freedom School

Heaton stated that Perry's first assignment was to infiltrate and conduct surveillance on the Community Freedom School, a black self-help radical organization in South Central Los Angeles. Heaton testified that he gave Perry a videotape machine and tape in order to carry out the assignment.

Perry contends that after doing extensive videotaping at the Community Freedom School, the FBI was delighted. "Upon returning with the tapes and photographs to Will Heaton and Brandon Cleary, they were overjoyed. They said that was the best job they had seen and said that I should take a check, get them some food and that also I should see about getting

them some kind of electric cooking utensils, and that also I should stay in very close contact with McNeil Nelson (organizer of the Community Freedom School)."

Perry then told the *Free Press* how Nelson had been set up for a bust by the FBI. "After obtaining the food and utensils, we then began to talk about different types of revolutionary activities, such as procurement of weapons, robbing of banks and ripping off liquor stores. He (McNeil Nelson) told me that he needed some handguns. I informed Will Heaton of this. He said 'that's wonderful' and that he would send a memo out to the bureau and see what they thought about it."

"Upon the reply from the bureau, I was told that this was a very good idea, that I should proceed in getting McNeil some phony I.D. and to also give him the money to procure three or four handguns, and then also to tell him about a certain gunshop to go to. Then I was told to try to get him interested in possibly doing a bank robbery or other criminal activity to obtain funds. He (McNeil) then was very talkative but would not proceed in said matter. Will Heaton then said it was about time for 'the fall' of the Community Freedom School."

"He said that I would take three pipe-bombs and place them into the library of the Community Freedom School. At that time I blew up on him (Heaton). I said I did not think all that stuff was necessary and that he should reconsider, that possibly left alone, the Community Freedom School would die on its own. . . . I placed the bombs in the library; subsequently there was a raid on the Community Freedom School by the LAPD."

The bomb charges were never brought against the

school, but McNeil Nelson was indicted in March of 1975 for purchasing weapons using false identification in the name of James Herbert Russell, identification that Perry contends he gave Nelson at the direction of the FBI.

Damaging Tapes

To date, the FBI has steadfastly denied that Perry conducted any surveillance of Assemblyperson Ralph, Lt. Gov. Dymally. Congressperson

Dellums or radio station KPFK. Such denials, especially in the case of KPFK, appear to be an attempt to cover up covert activities by the FBI. The *Free Press* has gained access to taped conversations between Perry, whose Los Angeles code name was "Othello," and FBI special agent Will Heaton.

During the course of one of those conversations, Perry asked Heaton if he (Perry) could get a copy of the Will Lewis KPFK tape.

Perry: "O.K. The other thing I need is, could I get a copy of tape on Will Lewis?"

Agent: "Uh... No, I don't have any extra copies around here."

In another conversation, Heaton congratulates Perry on infiltrating KPFK:

Perry: You know I told you I — I was gonna get a job with KPFK.

Agent: Yeah.

Perry: Yea, I got it.

Agent: Fantastic.

On yet another occasion, Agent Heaton was excited at the prospect of getting some information on Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden and a tape from the New World Liberation Front:

Perry: Yeah, and guess who came in the station?

Agent: Who?

Perry: Ah, Jane Fonda and old Tom Hayden.

Agent: Tom Hayden?

Perry: Uh-huh.

Agent: And Jane Fonda, huh?

Perry: Right.

Agent: Ya get to talk to 'em?

Perry: Ah, well, I got both phone numbers, and I will be going by their private residence to visit them.

Agent: Well, that's pretty neat.

Perry: And then on top of that there's something I know you'll be interested in.

Agent: What's that?

Perry: You remember that tape, the World Liberation Front tape that they had?

Agent: Uhh? No, I didn't know the World Liberation Front had a tape.

Perry: Oh, you didn't?

Agent: No.

Perry: Yeah, well, they got one down here.

Agent: The World Liberation tape — the New World Liberation Front?

Perry: Uh-huh.

Agent: What's it say?

Perry: Uh — well, I — I'm supposed to be listening to it Mon-

day.

Agent: O.K.

Perry: And I thought I might pick it up for us.

Agent: Why don't you? (Shades of Watergate.)

Further on in that same conversation, FBI agent Will Heaton told Darthard Perry, "It sounds like you're about to, ah, reestablish yourself... in a way that you may be usable."

KPFK station manager Will Lewis was shocked and dismayed when he first found out about Perry's activities. "It is ap-

palling to think that the government would stoop so low to subvert the constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of the press and free speech. It's frightening to think that the FBI would go as far as bugging a radio station."

Darthard Perry has come in from the cold; he is now telling his story. It hasn't been easy. Since deciding to talk about his association with the government, Perry has been harassed by FBI officials and threatened and thrown in jail on what he calls trumped-up charges. He's now out of jail, testifying against the government and keeping on the move to avoid any further harassment.

Perry's efforts to come in from the cold haven't been easy for those who have attempted to document his allegations. Since April, when he first began talking, Darthard Perry has told enough bits and pieces of the story to keep us interested. Clandestine meetings throughout the city and state greeted our attempts to get the story to verify it. In some cases, we were successful; in others, we were not. We have confirmed that Perry has in fact offered members of the radical community false I.D.; at least one person, and probably more, accepted the offer. He has had wide-ranging access to the community at large and certain elements of the radical community. He has done a lot of filming and video taping. In some instances checking out all of the charges he has made has been virtually impossible, since only the participants can verify the specifics, and the FBI isn't talking, nor are some of those radicals we have contacted, both apparently fearful of incriminating themselves.

Perry's charges are now get-

ting an open airing in court. He has testified in Federal Court in a tax case and has offered affidavits to be used in a lawsuit filed by radio station KPFK against the FBI, LAPD and the City of Los Angeles, stemming from the wiretapping of KPFK and the police search of that

station following an SLA communique. In addition, the Congressional Black Caucus is investigating the allegations and may take some measures of their own to expose the clandestine operations of the FBI in their "unwarranted surveillance of elected officials."

Congressperson Ronald Dellums' Washington office has turned over Perry's allegations to the Select Committee on Intelligence of which Dellums is a member. According to Legislative Aide Bob Brower, Congressperson Dellums "is overwhelmed by so much agency activity" and feels that FBI covert activity is a "bigger story than the CIA."

Assemblyperson Leon Ralph's administrative assistant, Johnny Morgan, has confirmed that Perry videotaped Ralph's offices. Morgan told the *Free Press* that Assemblyperson Ralph has "grave concern" regarding this alleged activity. Ralph feels that such surveillance would be "infringing on his rights and the rights of his constituents; this is the lowest thing they can do."

Morgan added that if the FBI "has legitimate concerns, the Assemblyperson feels they can just send an agent to talk to us, they don't have to bug my office." □