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# Notes on Security

by the Haymarket Collective



"The recent troubles in Chicago - The police capturing leading Anarchists at one of their dens."  
Sketch by C. Bunnell, May 22, 1886. (Graphic credit - LNS).

## INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet gives information on security to help people make sensible decisions about survival and safety, should circumstances make it necessary. Hopefully, most people will never *use* many of the suggestions included here. But situations change, often because of events beyond our control—new repressive legislation may be passed, a friend or acquaintance may be forced to go underground, or something else unforeseen might arise.

Repression in this country is increasing. The police and government investigate many people who are not even involved in heavy political scenes, and who feel they have nothing to hide. For instance, long-haired youths and almost anyone else looking a bit funny are regularly stopped, searched, and occasionally arrested on the New Jersey Turnpike. And when a bank in Boston was robbed and a guard killed, thirty of the most active members of the National Strike Information Center were placed under heavy surveillance and questioned by the FBI investigators.

Knowledge about security would have been very useful to these people, especially to those who had no reason to think they would need it.

Deciding what kind of security to use—as an individual and as a group—requires discussion among political organizations, collectives, good friends, and people who live together, if only to prevent excessive paranoia, if only to prevent people laying too heavy security trips on the group. Once a decision is made, follow through on it, or know who in the group has responsibility to do it.

All security decisions have political implications—even the most obvious ones. Keeping your door locked may seem apparent in a city, but it could arouse suspicion in the country or a small town, or at a store-front office. Most security decisions flow from a group's political understanding

of what it's trying to accomplish. For instance, a community organizing project probably would want a storefront for an office, but a movement research organization might prefer a less exposed, less public place to work. Similarly, a group actively planning a large demonstration will want to consider the possible consequences of keeping anything illegal—particularly drugs or weapons—in their homes or offices.

There's no litmus test to know when you're using the "right" security. In fact, frequently there are contradictions between a group's politics and effective protection. Political outreach requires openness; security measures often lead to isolation, and can consume time and energy needed elsewhere. The desire to be open, to build a movement based on trust, will conflict with a security maxim about operating on a need to know basis. If you aren't curious about friends' backgrounds and activities, you may not become aware of facts which would arouse legitimate suspicions.

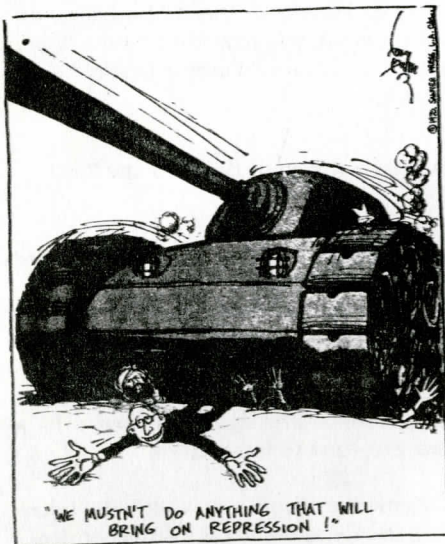
### Security: A Way of Being—Some Basic Principles

The most important thing about security doesn't have anything to do with undercover agents, electronic surveillance or most of the do's and don't's suggested in other sections. It has more to do with how we relate to each other, to other people—neighbors, people we're organizing, local officials, etc.—and to information.

Know the *people* you work with; know them deeply as friends as well as political associates. If you know each other well, you will know each other's strengths and weaknesses. Systems, procedures, and precautions about security can help, but they can't correct the weaknesses, foibles, and incompetence to which we *all* are subject. Even if you follow good security precautions, but don't know your group's weaknesses and limitations, and therefore don't know which procedures are bound to

breakdown, the best procedures won't help. If one person in your group has a need to prove to his associates that he's important—into "heavy" things—no procedure or reprimand will stop him from letting on. If another person is habitually forgetful, most systems won't help, but the lapses can violate the most rigid precautions. If a sub-grouping within the group has the tendency to do foolish things when they get together, only group awareness, not any *system* has a chance of changing their ways.

Experience has shown, however, that living together does not, by itself, guarantee security; nor is it impossible for organizations whose members live, and even work separately to maintain coherent security procedures. Reasonable and consistent practice of criticism and self-criticism can be useful in any organization to help people become aware of weaknesses and build on their strengths.



Los Angeles News Advocate

## SECURITY PRINCIPLES

### Need To Know

Operate on a 'need to know' basis for certain kinds of information. Some things are obvious: don't talk openly about AWOL's and deserters, runaways, people

who are fugitives and underground, or those who have harbored fugitives, things involving legal cases that the police don't know already—and things they might know, but have weak evidence on. It's a good idea not to use people's names in discussing weapons or dope. You may have friends who are engaged in legal activities, such as union organizing, which they'd prefer their boss or anyone else did not know about for now. If you don't want to talk about something you're doing, find smooth ways to tell people what you're up to; don't leave gaps that will make them suspicious. If someone you know is obviously reluctant to give you information about something she is into, don't press her, unless you've got a good reason. Don't conjecture or gossip.

When people start getting concerned about security there are several over-reactions which don't help. Avoid seeming to be security conscious while giving off vibes that you're into something too heavy to be talked about, and don't be suspiciously vague about your activities.

Security won't be an all or nothing proposition. It's easy to fall into the trap of being uptight one week and careless the next. Most people are just beginning to be security conscious, and a couple of slips doesn't mean you're a hopeless risk. Try to talk out differences of opinion about the necessary degree of security before hassling someone about being too paranoid.

### Information

The increasing growth of computerized data banks means we should be more careful about what kind of information we divulge about ourselves. In filling out applications—school, job, license, passport—give as little information as possible. In some cases you need only give your name and address (you might want to use your work rather than home address). Beware of "sociological studies" (e.g., a study of commune life); even if the interviewer and purpose of the study is on the level, it can be used for other things.

### Positive Security—Know Your Neighbors

Neighbors can mean the difference between trouble and survival. In many instances, neighbors have filed complaints, either on their own or as the result of police pressure, against freaks or political activists in their community. But people who have taken the trouble to cultivate good relationships with others in the vicinity often have found that neighbors have refused to cooperate with the police, and have even given warning of investigators and other trouble. Find ways that you and your neighbors can help each other on a day-to-day basis, perhaps through baby-sitting, cooperative food buying, car pools, etc. Respect your neighbors' lifestyle, and don't give them reason to resent yours. For instance, don't hold late, noisy parties, or park in the neighbors' driveway or regular parking space, or parade nude around your house without pulling the shades.

### SECURITY IN THE HOME AND OFFICE

The kind of office or house security you will need depends on your situation. One concern might be preventing the pigs from looking for, planting, or finding illegal stuff such as drugs. Another might be keeping other kinds of not necessarily illegal, but interesting, information (such as files or address books) out of their hands. Or you might simply want to protect your place from rip-offs. In some GI projects, rural areas, and places with an active right-wing, the most important thing may be protection from physical attack.

Keep doors locked, except for most public store-front offices, and in the country and small towns where locking your door would arouse suspicion. If you're worried about rip-offs, get a good bolt lock (one which requires a key to lock it on at least one side), and make sure the door is strong and well-hinged, and install spring locks on the sides of windows. In the house, keep a light on in the hallway and outside to see who's coming at night.

Keep phone lists and address books out of sight.

Cops and right-wingers often pose as inspectors and repairmen, so don't let in telephone repairmen, electricians, plumbers, etc., without asking to see their identification. You don't have to let them in unless they have a warrant. If you didn't request them to come, call the company to verify why they've come. Stay with them while they work.



Washington U. STUDENT LIFE/LNS

Consider not reporting a theft to the police if it means a search. If there's been a fire, stay with the firemen or cops if they come to inspect for fire or water damage. If you want an official to come into your house but are afraid he will rip you off or plant something, ask a lawyer to be present when he comes.

### Especially In Offices

Figure out a way to protect important files: keep them locked, make duplicates, store them away from the office. If necessary, keep expensive equipment locked up when not in use. Always keep duplicates of mailing lists. In a busy, very public office, a separate room in the back for files, typewriters, mimeo machines, etc., with access to a smaller number of people, would be helpful.

If possible, two people should be in the office to handle emergencies, visitors, the

press, etc. Have a policy on how to relate to visitors. For instance, if you put out a movement newspaper from a storefront office, do you want it to be a hangout for young kids from the neighborhood?

### Heavier Situations

Heavy curtains stop rocks and protect you from shattering glass; so do chicken wire and plywood boards over windows. If gun attacks are a strong possibility, don't sleep near or under a window, and use sand-bagging if necessary. In isolated areas, such attackers may be frightened away by the sight or sound of guns. In a large house, a warning system of some sort (loud buzzer, bell, horn) to alert people in other parts of the house or in nearby houses in case of a raid is useful.



Check the license plates of cars frequently in the vicinity of your home or office, but don't assume you're not being watched if you don't recognize cars; cops often borrow autos from used car dealers and switch plates. Warn friends who might visit that they might be hassled coming and going, stopped and frisked for weapons, asked for identification, etc. Be careful about what you put in the trash. With increasing frequency recently, leads or evidence have been retrieved from someone's garbage.

Secret papers or papers that you don't

want to be found by the authorities should not be kept in your house of office. Police seem to be more interested in what is hidden than in what is left around, so papers that are seemingly well-hidden should not be incriminating in any way. If you do not want to be connected to a house or office, don't keep personal papers with your name on them anywhere on the property. Two sets of identification or false ID's should not be kept in the same place. Books and papers describing illegal activity should not be kept in the house.

### Planning For Emergencies

Specific sections in this pamphlet deal with the problems of drugs and weapons in case of a bust. There are some universal tenets, however, that apply to almost all situations: people who live or work together should prepare in advance for the possibility of a bust or other emergency by discussing plans, alternatives, and trying a few "bust drills".

Set up a phone tree and memorize the phone numbers of neighbors or others who may be of help. If necessary, set up a central coordinating phone. Know the name of a lawyer, a legal defense office, or a friend who could get bail money and a bail bondsman for you in case of a bust. If children live in the house, special plans must be made for them: they or someone responsible for them need to know what they can tell the police, where they can go in case of an emergency, how they will go, and who should be in charge of them, especially if there is a chance that the parents may be arrested and the children taken as wards of the state.

Stock first aid kits and talk to your neighbors about first aid. Also know the name of a doctor or health care center and how to reach them quickly. Agree upon a place to keep emergency money that can't be taken by the police. Set up an alternative meeting place where people could go any time, 24 hours a day.

**In an emergency, don't panic.** And if

you don't know all the facts about a bust, **don't spread rumors.**

## MEETINGS

You can assume that public meetings, particularly large well-advertised ones, are attended by agents or informers. Informers' reports contain information on who was there, who said what, and even licence plate numbers of cars parked in the vicinity. If you're going to such a meeting *and* have reason to avoid being identified (assuming that they don't know who you are already), park several blocks away and don't register or sign any name and address lists that might get passed around. If you're running a meeting and want to get a list of who's present (for mailings, phone chain, etc.), have each person fill out a piece of paper and pass it in to one person, rather than sending a single list around for everyone in the meeting to sign and perhaps memorize. If you do send around lists, number the pages and make sure you get them all back.

You can avoid surveillance at small meetings concerned with sensitive or illegal stuff by following several precautions: don't meet regularly at the same place, and check out information on bugging under the **Conversation** part of the next section on Communication. If a police raid is a reasonable possibility, have a "straight" explanation for the meeting ("We're having a Spanish class.") and have a way of disposing of written materials. Examples: a) Kitchen blenders are a good quick way to dispose of short paper documents. Add paper, a little water and blend. b) Roll up papers and place in a drinking glass and burn from the top. c) Sit near a lit oven. d) Flush down the toilet.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Telephones

There is no way of telling for sure that your phone *is not* tapped. Occasionally there are ways to find out if your phone has a crude tap, but hearing funny noises

on your line is almost certainly Ma Bell's fuck-up. Phones can be tapped anywhere along the circuit (in the company's office, on the telephone pole, junction box, the phone itself, etc.), and it's difficult to get evidence of taps outside your house.

Taps are sometimes used to get evidence for trials, but in such cases it is necessary for a law enforcement agency to get a "search" warrant from a judge authorizing the tap. Warrants must be renewed every two weeks. Taps are more frequently used without warrants to get leads for obtaining other kinds of evidence or information. The Justice Department believes and acts on the premise that it may tap any line if in *its* judgment the national security is involved. It does not bother to get court approval in such cases.

Few movement activists rate a "live" tap, that is, someone listening to your conversation as you speak. These are usually used on the phones of people most active in planning demonstrations, those suspected of involvement with fugitives, etc. Most taps involve a voice-activated tape, which may be played back by police in a day, month, year or never. The number you are dialing from your phone can easily be recorded, but it takes at least three minutes to trace an incoming call, given the present technology. Some pay phones are also tapped—at random and at frequent hangouts of politicians, freaks, the Mafia, etc.

Obviously, don't conspire or discuss illegal activity over the phone. It's also not a good idea to discuss anything that could be a *lead* to your or other people's illegal activities. Even such phrases as "Let's not talk about that over the phone." are risky. If a conversation takes a dangerous turn, it's just as easy to exclaim that the rice is burning, the bath running over, or the doorbell ringing, and arrange a time to meet. If someone calls and says something outrageously illegal over the phone ("I'm a deserter/fugitive/AWOL; can you help me?") don't feel it's rude to hang up. In some cases you

can refer AWOL's and deserters to a movement lawyer, since attorneys have more immunity in such situations.

If you must use the phone for things you'd rather the eavesdroppers didn't hear, try to use pay phones in safe areas. Prearrange to call someone at a pay phone from another one, or transfer a regular call to pay phones. Keep a list of pay phone numbers and locations handy. Have a prearranged code with your friends for emergencies (meet me at such and such a place immediately; the pigs are coming, etc.). When setting up possibly illegal meetings, separate the date, place and time in more than one phone call, or prearrange one or more of these three items.

### Conversations

We know little about the frequency of hidden microphones and transmitters. Play it safe: conspire in public places like restaurants, parks, bus stations, airports, and hospital waiting rooms. But if you must use a movement house, unplug the phone or unscrew the cap of the mouth-piece and take out the two-inch button that is the microphone, or put the phone under pillows. Bugs using the phone mike are a frequent variety. The listener need make no changes in the wiring of your phone so without complex radio receivers you can not tell if it is bugged. Also, tune the radio to a talk station and talk softly while the radio plays loudly. Most bugs must draw power from your home current. They are built into switches, lamps, or outlets, so if you take out the fuses and talk by candlelight and battery radio, you will have turned off the bugs. Battery powered bugs can only be used when the battery can be replaced about every three days.

These measures won't frustrate bugs that use microphones with long leads into the next apartment, or leading to separate lines leased to the FBI from the phone company. Even the most diligent search with equip-

ment that costs about \$40,000 might miss some bugs. So talk outside—and with people you trust. The only uses of bugs in court in recent movement cases have been battery operated devices planted on the body of police agents posing as participants. For more information on bugs and taps, see Robert M. Brown, *The Electronic Invasion*, John F. Rider, N.Y. 1967, 180 pp. paperback.

### Mail

It is now legal for the post office to open all foreign mail coming in or going out of the country, including Canada. Although there is no reason to think that domestic first class mail is less open to surveillance than phone, certainly there is less talk of mail watches than phone taps or of legal warrants. Documents stolen from the Media Pa. FBI office indicate that local postmasters and postmen are instructed by the FBI to watch mail for letters addressed to people other than those who reside at a given address, and for suspicious return addresses.

But for sensitive information, it is still much safer to use a mail drop—a place to send letters at the home of a politically less exposed friend—than to talk over the phone. Use false return addresses and vary them for large mailings, particularly to GI's. Don't use a rented post office box because it's too accessible to the authorities and it is illegal to rent one under a false name. But if you suspect that mail is being stolen from your home mail box, either get a mail box which locks well or use a post office box.

### Press

Dealing with the press is no easy problem, particularly if you're concerned about getting good publicity and reaching large numbers or people *and* keeping relatively secure. In many cases, groups would like potential allies to know who they are, what they're doing, and how they can be reached. There have been instances, however, where news-

paper reports, such as of impressions of Cuba by returning members of the Venceremos Brigade, have set off local and even Congressional investigations. The FBI, other intelligence agencies, and especially right-wing groups monitor both the straight press and underground press for information on us. Press photos have been used to identify participants in demonstrations.

In some parts of the country, it might be a good idea not to sign articles in movement newspapers or to identify yourself by name as the leader of an organization to the straight press because the right-wing makes up harassment and "assassination" lists from such sources.

Cultivating local reporters to give you good and sympathetic coverage can be useful when their newspapers don't distort their articles too much. Some reporters have also proved to be allies when called to testify in demonstration busts involving police brutality. *But*, there can be serious dangers to giving reporters certain kinds of "off the record" illegal or incriminating information. Intelligence agencies frequently use newspaper reporters as informers or agents. And even if a reporter is not an agent or informer the district attorney can in some cases subpoena notes and demand testimony under threat of contempt.

Whenever possible, use a prepared press statement, worded so that it's difficult to take things out of context. Have at least two people talk with the press.

## ENCOUNTERS WITH THE COPS

When the cops hassle you—in your house, in your car, or on the street—it's important to know your legal rights and how to act in accordance with them. Although the cops probably will do what they want anyway, cases have been dismissed or charges lowered in court because of the *technical* illegality of police actions. That's why this section is here. However, actually dealing with the police can be ambiguous. For instance,

asserting your rights *too* vigorously can sometimes get a cop so mad that he'll come down heavier on you.

### In The House

A search of your house is legal under the following circumstances:

- if you let the cops in a consent to be searched. This includes opening your door to let them in but not explicitly objecting to their search.
- if the cops have a warrant. A search warrant is a paper issued by a judge after the police have convinced him that they need to search your house to get evidence of a crime that they suspect is being committed.
- as part of an arrest. They can search the immediate area in which the person is arrested. ("Immediate area" does not mean the entire house.)
- if they believe a crime is being committed. The cops can just bust in, without identifying themselves or knocking, if they believe they have "probable cause" to believe a crime was being committed in your house (like seeing someone smoking dope through the window). In such cases the police think they can convince a judge later that the evidence would be destroyed if they went to get a warrant.





If the police come to the door, keep it locked and ask who it is. If they say they have a warrant, ask them to slip it under the door. **DON'T INVITE THEM IN**. Remember that building, fire, and health inspectors (often cops or right-wingers in disguise) also need warrants to enter your house, no matter what they tell you.

If they have a *search warrant* check it carefully. It should include: the name of the arresting officer, the date of the search, the exact premises (the address and apartment number) and what they are searching for. Keep a copy if you can. If you can't, memorize it or write it down. If they produce the search warrant you can't let them in if you want to, or else they will bust in.

If they have an *arrest warrant* also ask to see it. It only has to have the name of the person they are trying to arrest. Check the name. If the person is in the house it is best for that person to go outside, locking the door behind. Since the police can search the immediate area where an arrest takes place, being outside means they can't legally search the house.

Whether or not the police show you a warrant, say that you do not give your consent for them to search (loud enough for witnesses to hear). Delaying the police from entering, like reading the warrant carefully or making them break in, can give you time to dispose of possibly incriminating evidence or other material of interest to the cops.

Once in, follow them around the house to see if they plant or seize anything and where it was. If they find something illegal don't claim ownership. Remember all the events that happen.

After the cops have split, make a thorough search to see if they've planted anything. Clean the house of any illegal property they have missed. Everyone present should write down exactly what happened and get it to a lawyer as soon as possible. Remember that you're probably under closer than usual

surveillance, so don't lead them to other people and places they shouldn't know about. If you haven't already done so, begin now to assume that your phone is tapped and that your house might be bugged.

If someone is busted, read the next section for what to do. If no one is arrested, try to figure out why they searched your house to begin with. You should do the same follow-up for searches that occur when you're not at home. If you have to invite cops or fire inspectors to your house to report a bomb scare, a theft or fire, and you're worried about them searching too thoroughly, try to have a lawyer present, or a lot of friendly witnesses.

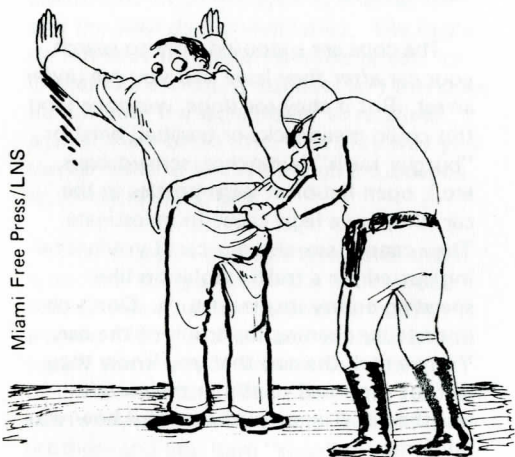
### On The Street

Frequently cops stop people and ask for identification and an explanation of what they're doing. Some states have a law requiring you to identify yourself, and others don't. Experience has shown that it is usually better to identify yourself and give some account of what you're doing (going to see a friend, going home, etc.). In all states identification is implicitly necessary to prove you're obeying another law (like showing your driver's license if stopped while driving). A refusal to give an account of yourself might lead a cop to bust you for loitering, vagrancy, curfew violation, disorderly conduct, "failure to give a good account of yourself", or some other catch-all charge. In any case, you have the right not to give information about yourself or others beyond identification.

According to "stop and frisk" laws which most states have, a cop can pat you down on the outside of your clothing for weapons. Just raise your arms, stand quietly and let him do his thing. If the cop starts to go through your pockets or purse, ask him politely but loudly, "Am I under arrest?" If he says no, say politely but loudly, "I don't consent to be searched."

If the cop says, "You're under arrest," don't resist or try to talk your way out of it. Don't give the cop the excuse to add a "resisting arrest" or similar charge to whatever else he decides to bust you on.

*Stop and Frisk*



Miami Free Press/LNS

The police can try questioning you once you are in custody. "Custody" means any time you are restrained by the cops whether on the street or at the police station. Again, you have the right to refuse to answer any questions or to answer only in the presence of your lawyer. Don't be tricked into waiving this right by promises from the cops that they will let you go if you agree to talk or by threats that they will go hard on you. Also, don't sign *anything*, even a paper saying they told you your rights. The right not to answer interrogation questions does not cover things which involve ascertaining your identity, fingerprinting, taking blood samples, being photographed, and being forced to be in a line-up, but you do have a right to have a lawyer present at any line-up. Also, a refusal to give any name may give them basis for denying you reasonable bail or letting you go on your personal recognizance. Giving a false name, if discovered, may increase bail or have other consequences later.

As soon as you get to the police station, ask to make a phone call. States have different laws on how many phone calls you can make, and how soon after booking. Call your lawyer or someone whom you know will be home and can get a lawyer for you.

Try to remember everything that happens until your lawyer comes: names, times, places, circumstances, badge numbers, etc. While in jail, talk with your cell-mates, but *don't* tell them anything about your bust. Not only can cells be bugged and agents put in cells to get information, but a favorite tactic of the cops is to make deals with your fellow prisoners to reduce their charges if they give information about you. Any information you give voluntarily in jail may be used against you. Defendants in the Manson and Harrisburg trials made this mistake.

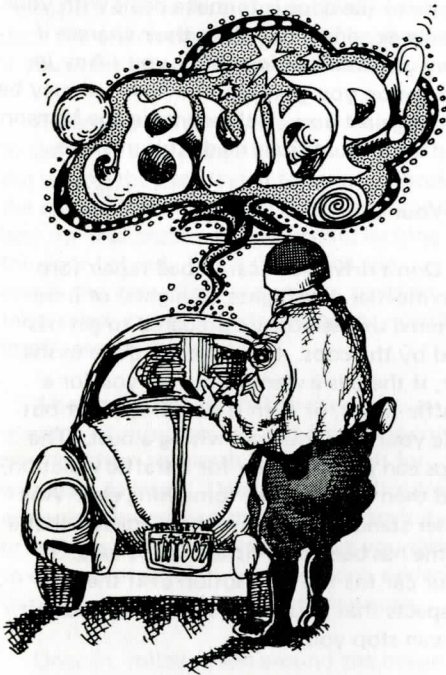
### In Your Car

Don't drive your car in bad repair (broken muffler, headlights, taillights) or unregistered unless you are prepared to get hassled by the cops. If you've got dope in the car, if there is a warrant out on you for a traffic ticket, or even if you drop litter outside your car, you are inviting a bust. The cops can pull you over for a traffic violation, and then bust you for something else. Another standard excuse is the suspicion that a crime has been committed in the area. If your car fits the description or if the cop suspects that you know something about it, he can stop you.

When a cop signals you to pull over, pull over to the right side of the road and stop. Don't try to split. Turn off your engine. Get out of the car ready to hand the cops both your driver's license and car registration. If you have borrowed a car from a friend, be sure you have a signed permission slip to drive from the registered owner; people have been busted in cases like this for auto theft. The cops are legally allowed to make you identify yourself and the car, and they can bust you for refusal to do so.

Also, if you have been living in one state for awhile, you should have a driver's license from that state.

The cops will be watching for you to throw dope out the window. If you have dope with you, do not carry it in the glove compartment or under the seat. Either keep it on you, in small enough quantities to eat, or keep it in a locked box in the locked trunk; if you are arrested for a traffic violation, you can be searched.



Berkeley Tribe/LNS

Since suspicion of crime being committed in the area is a standard excuse to bust you, the cops will expect you to account for your presence. Get your story ready (and have all in the car prepared with the same story), even before you are stopped. Say you were on the way to a party, out to eat, etc., and agree on where you were coming from.

If the cops keep asking questions or start harassing you, ask them, "Am I under arrest?" If they say yes, ask them what the

charges are. The cops are required to tell you. Don't give them time to think up new charges, although they may tack some on later. If the cops say no and start to search you, say, "I do not consent to be searched," if there are witnesses who can hear you say it. If they ask you about a "crime being committed in the area" tell them you know nothing about it.

The cops are supposed only to search your car *after* they have said you are under arrest. But if they see dope, weapons (and this could mean jacks or baseball bats) or "burgler tools" (wrenches, screwdrivers, etc.), open liquor or wine bottles in the car, they have legal cause to investigate. They cannot search your car if you are being busted for a traffic violation like speeding or any incorrect turn. Don't cooperate by opening the trunk of the car. You can tell the cop that you know they are not supposed to search the car unless they bust you, but be careful how you tell him.

## ON TALKING TO THE FBI

The FBI's job is to gather information, and not all of it comes from bugs and agents. Sometimes movement people supply it. Ben Spock, for example, invited the FBI in, sat them down, ran down his politics for an hour, and at the end said kiddingly, "I've probably given you enough information to hang me." This information, including this last statement, was used in a distorted way at his trial. **Moral of all FBI stories: Don't talk.**

This is how it happens. Some of us get scared when an FBI agent appears at the door. We answer a few "simple" questions because we are afraid not to, afraid of committing some crime by not talking. Our fear in this situation distorts our judgment. Sounds simple? Before you can say, "go away," they start in: "There's a warrant out. Where is Ted Jackson?" *Warrant? Ted? Oh Jesus, they're going to arrest Ted.*

Wrong. There is a warrant for *someone*—they didn't say who— and maybe want to talk to Ted and they maybe want to see your reaction, and maybe want to see if you know where he is.

There is no law requiring us to talk to an FBI agent. No crime against the State is committed when the agent is brushed off and the door shut immediately. The Fed's do not have the power to make arrests for crimes like disorderly conduct and therefore do not have the same power to retaliate against these brush offs. The only way you can be made to talk is through a subpoena to a federal grand jury.

No FBI agent asks idle questions; there is no such thing as small talk with a Fed. A long answer, a short answer, a truthful answer, a lying answer—any of these will supply some sort of information which is of use to the State. The FBI visitor may be out to make a case on you, or a sister, or a brother—and you have "sung" if you say anything more than: "Get out. Goodbye."

Sometimes when we open the door unafraid and ready to brush the Fed off, we get caught. They try to snow us with how much they know: come on with a whole list of names of who lives in our house, works in our office. Or they say they won't go away, they know other people who live in the house and they'll wait till they all come home and ring the doorbell every fifteen minutes to check on it. Or they get us on the old interrogation trick. The FBI agent says, "We have some information which tends to implicate you in (such and such) a bombing. If you could answer a few questions, I'm sure we can straighten things out." Your mouth drops; your mind boggles: "Shit, I didn't do that."

Suddenly you've lost your cool and you're only too glad to tell the Fed where you were on Thursday night and who you were with. Maybe that's all he wanted to know—where you were and if X was with you. And you've given him the information. Even two-bit gangsters in grade B movies don't fall for that one.

**what to do when THE FBI COMES**

TALK, PUNK, OR ELSE WE KNOW YOU'RE GUILTY!

WE'RE HERE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT INVOLVED, OLD BUDDY.

HOW'S THAT CORN ON YOUR LEFT BIG TOE DOING, NICK?

IN THE WAKE OF THE CITY HALL BOMBING, THE FBI HAS BEEN MAKING VISITS TO MANY PEOPLE'S HOMES. THESE VISITS ARE AS MUCH FOR GENERAL PURPOSES OF INFORMATION GATHERING AS THEY ARE FOR APPREHENDING THE BOMBERS. TALKING TO THEM NOW WILL ONLY MAKE THEIR JOB OF INTIMIDATION + REPRESSION EASIER IN THE FUTURE!

THEY MAY PLAY DUMB AND TEMPT YOU TO TRY TO OUTSMART THEM...

THEY MAY COME ON TOUGH...

THEY MAY COME ON FRIENDLY...

OR AS IF THEY ALL READY KNOW A LOT

DUH...

IT IS A FEDERAL CRIME TO LIE TO THEM!

THERE IS ONLY ONE SAFE, LEGAL RESPONSE YOU SHOULD MAKE:

GO AWAY—I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU!

THEY MAY TELL YOU TO CALL YOUR LAWYER—THIS IS A TRICK—IGNORE THEM! DO NOT LET THEM IN YOUR HOUSE IF THEY DON'T HAVE A WARRANT. THEY MAY REMAIN ON YOUR DOORSTEP OR POUND ON YOUR WINDOWS... IGNORE THEM. THEY HAVE MORE TRICKS THAT AREN'T LISTED HERE— FOLLOW THE ONE BASIC RULE: DONT TALK TO THE F.B.I.!!

SLAM

Some others of us are not afraid when the FBI comes—in fact quite the reverse. We are so arrogant about our wits and the Fed's stupidity that we invite him in to ask his questions, and find out what the enemy is up to. Fat chance. Our very questions give him information which he might never stumble over. Behind each question is a body of information which may well be revealed in the question itself or in a series of questions. Some of our brothers and sisters have reported on an interview, "Was he dumb! He didn't know what he was looking for." There are several names for that kind of arrogance.

What should we do when the FBI comes to call? It's really pretty simple. Just say, "I have nothing to say to you," and shut the door. If you can't do that, say, after you have checked his I.D., "That's nice and if you have any questions, call my lawyer; her name is. . . ." and then shut the door. Some people, particularly parents and people holding sensitive or government jobs, may not *want* to talk to the FBI, but would at least like the record to show that they said they were willing to talk with the FBI in the presence of an attorney. The FBI will rarely agree to this, especially if you ask to have a stenographic record of the interview.

Don't let the FBI agent in. Don't be afraid. Don't be tricked. Don't be arrogant. Any talking you do may sound like singing.

Another FBI ploy is to visit a third person: parent, friend, or employer. Whenever possible, it is helpful to talk with someone you think might be contacted and let them know the best way to deal with the FBI visitors. Let them know that the FBI may not contact them directly but may use a variety of tricks such as saying they are from voter registration, a jury selection committee, or a credit bureau, etc. A special entrapment for parents is to say, "We understand your daughter or son is missing (or dead) in connection with a recent event. The best way for you to help her is to tell us everything you know before she gets into

deeper trouble." Bits and pieces of information from nervous parents may make up a mosaic of trouble for one of us. So try to anticipate the problem and handle it ahead of time with enough tact and humor to ease the situation.

## AGENTS

As more and more police agents and informers have begun to figure prominently in movement trials and busts, or otherwise have surfaced or been exposed, political people have started to worry about the problems of infiltration, sometimes to the point of paranoia. The two best ways to counteract infiltration, and hopefully paranoia, is knowing well the people with whom we live and work, and learning the techniques of background investigations. Inconsistencies in co-workers' behavior or information about themselves may not be reason enough to suspect them, but intuition about such discrepancies is still our principal initial basis for checking someone out further. A few points to remember:

You should assume that large, particularly public, meetings are attended by agents. Their reports of such meetings contain who said what, who was present, and license plate numbers of cars parked nearby by the meeting place (see **Meetings**).

Don't assume that all agents work for the FBI; in fact, the FBI tends to work through networks of paid and unpaid informers rather than infiltrating its own agents. Many agents who infiltrate organizations have turned out to be employees of state county, local and campus police. The armed services, Army, Navy and Air Force, maintain elaborate intelligence operations but seldom use covert agents, except in GI organizing projects. The Justice Department and the Secret Service have extensive files on movement activists.

Groups are infiltrated for different reasons. Sometimes it is mostly to collect information for data banks, for local police (to learn demonstration plans), or to set up people for busts. Collecting evidence for a conspiracy or other rap may be another primary assignment for an agent. Also watch out for the agent who, either to keep his or her credibility or by specific instruction, acts as an agent provocateur.

The December 1970 issue of *Ramparts* magazine has an article outlining how to check people out who may be agents. (Reprints are available from RESIST, 763 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139). This method of background checks has mostly uncovered agents who have changed substantially their identities, not informers who need hide only that small period of their past and present when they deal with the police. To recruit informers, the police use fear, materialism, and internal hostilities. People who've had a heavy legal charge dropped or seem to have lots of money from no apparent source might be suspect. Occasionally, right-wingers volunteer their services as infiltrators and informers in movement groups. Do not be tempted to overlook suspicious statements or actions

merely because a person is a GI, a woman, working class or Third World.

If you are sure there is an agent or informer in your midst, expose him (perhaps at a large public meeting), and let others know about him, not only in your city, but in other places. Informers and infiltrators usually travel around and have good credentials, so check out people who've just moved to your city.

DON'T spread rumors about suspected people who haven't been checked out yet. It will only increase everyone's paranoia. Inevitably, any group will find there are people who don't seem reliable but who you can't prove are agents. Such people may just be politically naive, may just lie alot, be unstable people, or they may in fact be agents. The group should figure out if and when such people are too destructive to be working with the group. The evidence won't be black and white, and it may be conflicting. Perhaps ask a person to leave the group, but don't expose him as an agent if you can't prove he is one. The general tone of suspicion is usually enough to close someone out of a group. Suspicions should lead to a discussion, not to immediate and obvious coldness.



"Anybody seen my brown shirt around here?"

In terms of simple security measures, we should work out what things we can say over the phone, in houses and in offices. We should code address books we carry with us (any code will do) and not carry more information than we need. Above all, when there is suspicion we've got to check it out. Try to ask as many questions as possible. Ask the suspect verbally (instead of using a form) and record answers. *Ramparts* magazine lists a sample series of security questions in its December 1970 issue:

1. Military history is easy to check out: Selective Service Reg. 1606.32(a)(1) gives any person with written authority (signed and dated) of the registrant the right to examine the file. Insist on that permission and check it out. Also look at suspect's draft card.
2. Check out car ownership and driving record. Ask for a description of last two cars, with names of legal and registered owners and license plate numbers. Most State Dept. of Motor Vehicles will release individual driver's records and car ownership information for a small fee.
3. Question past marriages, divorces or separations with dates and locations. Also births of children, civil or criminal court actions and any traffic tickets. Clerk's offices of superior, municipal, small claims and traffic courts have last name indexes and files for all criminal, civil, divorce, and traffic cases.
4. Ask to see financial records: bank or check books, etc. Any merchant who subscribes to a credit bureau can get information on anyone who's ever bought anything on credit.
5. Ask about health stuff, particularly hospitalizations, visits to doctors, medications. It can be checked out easily through movement doctors who have easy access to nearly all medical records.
6. Standard information about last four schools attended, last four or five jobs (place, date of employment, kind of job and reason for leaving) can be checked by phone calls and letters.
7. There are good sources for address information: check out suspect's former addresses as well as those of parents, stepparents; R.L. Polk Co. publishes a *City Directory* in three sections. First is an alphabetized list of heads of households, usually in the husband's name, but including spouse's job, employer and address. Section two is indexed by street address and Section three by telephone number. Haines Co.'s *Addressakey* is similar but usually more geographically complete. Both are available in libraries. Also county assessor's offices have complete listings of all real estate owners.

## APPENDICES

### SELF DEFENSE

Circumstances may call for self defense measures. If you or your house sees a need for weapons for self defense, you should know certain basic ground rules and legal requirements. Even if you're not in such circumstances and don't intend to acquire weapons, it's important to know about gun laws. You might be visiting people who do have guns, or might want to discuss with someone the consequences of having guns.

Common sense dictates that everyone living or working together reach a mutual agreement about the kinds of self defense measures that should be taken by the group as a whole and the circumstances in which they should be used. Once these decisions are reached, everyone involved should understand completely how to use the means for self defense, where weapons will be located, and what harm, if any, can be inflicted by them. If there is a need for guns, everyone should know the range and capacity of them and make sure they're appropriate for the intended use.

#### State And City Gun Laws

Busts of political persons on gun charges are becoming more frequent. Any display of guns, whether registered or unregistered, is likely to invite an arrest. Even drawn blinds can outline guns held in your hand. Guitar cases and other large containers may help to transport weapons.

Don't be careless about target practice in the country. Guns are no more anonymous in the country than they are in the city: neighbors can tell from the sound of a gun what type it is and may find shooting suspicious if it is not dur-

ing hunting season. Check with your country friends first to be sure.

Before buying guns, know the laws of your city and state and the federal government. Many cities have local ordinances on registration, permits, and use of firearms. A judicious anonymous call to your local police department in sizeable cities should get this information. Make the call before you try to acquire or carry a gun in a particular city. (This pamphlet does not cover local ordinances.) State laws define each category of weapon, regulate permits, sales and use, and specify who cannot legally own or carry a gun. Check your local state statutes. For example, in Massachusetts (a state with tough gun laws) you need a Firearm Identification Card to own any weapon, and a special permit to own handguns. The sale of all guns is regulated as well.

Laws relating to firearms are also found under:  
concealable weapons statutes; dangerous deadly weapons statutes (these statutes may also include knives and other hand weapons); hunting regulations; laws relating to target practice; laws concerning the carrying of weapons in cars; state self defense doctrines. A good publication on state and local firearms ordinances for the fifty states is *Firearms: State and Local Ordinances Relevant to Title 18 U.S.C.C. Chapter 44 PUB 603 (Rev. 11-69)*.

It can be obtained for \$1.25 from the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402



## Federal Gun Laws

Federal laws duplicate many state laws, but also add key restrictions on transportation and sales of arms over state lines. The National Firearms act of 1938 and the Gun Control Act of 1968 prohibit the use of the following weapons to all people except the police, the armed forces, the National Guard, and some specifically licensed private citizens:

1. Machineguns: any firearm that shoots automatically more than one shot with a single function of the trigger.
2. Sawed off rifles or shotguns:
3. Conversion kits: an assemblage of parts designed to convert semi-automatic firearms into automatics (such as M-1 carbines converted into machineguns.
4. Silencers: device attached to the gun which muffles the sound of the explosion.
5. Cannons: any weapon with a bore diameter larger than .60 inches that fires fixed ammunition, other than a shotgun.
6. Teargas and weapons to shoot it.
7. Rockets and rocket launchers.
8. Grenades.
9. Bombs.

### Restrictions on guns crossing state lines:

1. No person can ship firearms or ammunition to a person in another state unless both the sender and the receiver have federal firearms licenses.
2. No person can transport or receive a firearm acquired outside the state he's living in. (The exception to this is the rule stating that you can get a rifle or a shotgun from the state next to the one in which you live, if you go thru a procedure requiring a sworn statement.)
3. The only way you can get a firearm by mail order is by sending a sworn statement of your qualifications to the person from whom you are buying the gun. The seller then sends the statement to the police department in the buyer's city, and the seller must wait seven days

after the police notify him that they got the statement, before he can send out the gun.

4. The Secretary of the Treasury has strict control over importation of foreign guns and parts. (This provides protection for the homegrown munitions industry, enabling them to jack up prices on inferior guns.)

Who cannot own or carry or use any kind of gun:

Persons convicted of felonies, dishonorably discharged veterans, judicially determined mental incompetents, aliens illegally in the United States, and former citizens who have renounced their citizenship.

The Civil Rights Act of 1968 makes it a felony to engage in any of the following acts:

1. Teaching or demonstrating the use, application of making of any firearm, explosive or incendiary device-capable of causing death, with knowledge that it will be used in some civil disorder that might interfere with interstate commerce or a federally protected function (such as the mails).
2. Taking or sending any firearms across state lines knowing the arms will be used in a civil disorder.
3. Interfering with a cop or firearm who is trying to extinguish or bust up a civil disorder that interferes with interstate commerce or a federally protected function.

**Warning to people interested in teaching other people how to buy, carry, shoot, and clean guns: say at the beginning of each class and print on any written material: "None of this information or training will be used with my knowledge in any way to delay, obstruct or affect interstate commerce, or any federally protected function, or to further any civil disorder." (If there are any agents**

**in the class, this statement may provide some form of protection against prosecution under the 1968 Civil Rights Act).**

Guns are usually legal for defense of person or property, but note that large stashes of guns may effectively negate any claim you may have that they were merely for self defense. Possessing a gun illegally for purposes that are legal may be unnecessarily inviting arrest. If you have guns in your possession for self-defense, they should be registered as required by state law.

## DOPE

Everyone should know what dope is kept in your house, and where it is. Dope should be kept in a central place so that it can be flushed down the toilet quickly (but make sure the toilet flushes; the cops sometimes shut off the water). DON'T throw dope out the window. No extra seeds, roaches, etc. should be lying around the house. If you have dope on you, keep it in your underwear or shoes, so cops can't feel it if they pat you down for weapons. NEVER drop dope on the street, if you see a cop coming.

Large amounts of dope should not be kept in the house, because it will jeopardize everyone who lives there. If someone is dealing, she should take care of business outside of the house, and keep the dope somewhere else. Don't buy from or sell dope to people you don't know well. Also be careful not to invite dealers to your house. You never know when someone might decide to turn you in to get themselves off the hook.

Laws on possession and selling of narcotics differ from state to state. Most states charge you with a less serious crime if you're caught with a small amount of dope (e.g. less than ¼ ounce in New

York), but in some, like New Jersey, it doesn't matter. In some areas, you will be charged with possession if you're just in the presence of dope, if they can show you had knowledge of it. In most places, the tenant or owner of the premises, or the owner of the car, is guilty if dope is well concealed. The person who is nearest it may be also. In New York, however, several people could be in a room, but if no one is holding the dope, no one is guilty, except possibly the tenant or owner. Laws also vary on whether or not you are guilty if dope is found on your "property" (including your hallway, if shared with neighbors; and the back and front yards).

People who engage in political activities and decide to be scrupulously clean of dope, still run the risk that it will be planted. While it's useful to beware of suspicious-looking repairmen and to run periodic checks for dope, there's no guaranteed way to prevent plants. Political offices and houses find that their best protection against successful drug busts is to get the reputation of not permitting dope of any kind on the premises. This includes having friendly but firm signs on the walls announcing this policy; and publically throwing people out who violate it, along with an explanation of the political reasons for not having dope in that particular office or house.

## HOW TO TALK WITH YOUR LAWYER

Even if your lawyer is sympathetic, she can be forced to reveal information at a trial or grand jury hearing unless what you tell her is considered by the court to be "confidential communication". This includes the following circumstances:

1. You have "client privilege" (e.g. what you say is confidential and cannot be

revealed in court by your lawyer) only if you talk with a lawyer or a law worker authorized by a lawyer. This privilege does not extend to conversations where someone else is present, unless she is seeing the lawyer about the same matter or is a member of the lawyer's staff. So don't bring a friend along.

2. Only information or advice about legal problems is considered confidential. Legal doesn't mean political, personal or moral advice. For instance, the information is protected when a lawyer advises you on the legal consequences of jumping bail, not on whether or not you should do it.

3. Most papers or written statements you give your lawyer are privileged, but not those which existed before you ever consulted an attorney.

4. Although information about a past illegal act for which a legal defense is being prepared is confidential, you can't stop your lawyer from divulging a conversation about future illegal conduct. Therefore, phrase your questions hypothetically. "What would happen if..." is better than "I'm planning to and...". Your lawyer would feel more comfortable and you are more protected this way.

**BE CAREFUL.** Offices of movement lawyers are frequently bugged, so keep these points in mind, even if you have complete trust in your lawyer.

## CONSPIRACY LAWS

Conspiracy laws have historically been a favorite tool of the State for the prosecution and general suppression of challenges to the status quo in both Europe and the United States. Early attempts to destroy the labor movement in this country involved conspiracy charges, and the "red scare" periods following the two world wars were also marked by such trials. In the past decade, deliberate "legal" maneuvering by both the Johnson and Nixon administrations has led to the passing of laws aimed at the eventual imprisonment of movement organizers on a variety of charges such as "inciting to riot" and "counselling young men to evade the draft," but all under the encompassing title of conspiracy. In almost every major American city, a conspiracy trial has taken place: Oakland, Boston, New York, Chicago, Seattle.

The Government is not so much interested in securing convictions, it seems, as it is in diverting the attention of the people away from the real issues of the war, racism, capitalism, etc., and forcing the movement to tie up huge sums of money in bail and general defense. In several cases, conspiracy charges have been initiated against individuals who had never met prior to the indictments, never plotted together before, but who were thrown together by the Government for political reasons. It appears, from the evidence of the past few years, that the Government consciously decided to isolate and frighten different segments of the anti-war movement: in the Boston 5 case, the defendants were upper middle class intellectuals and professionals; in Oakland, they were young radicals; in Harrisburg, radical Catholics; in New York and New Haven, black militants; and in Chicago, the

defendants represented a grab-bag of various life styles. If conviction were the real aim of the Government, many of the cases would never have come to trial as the evidence for the prosecution has been so flimsy. None of the major trials, (Oakland, Boston, Chicago) have resulted in conviction; the real aim is polarization. The publicity around each trial cuts two ways: "middle America" is terrified and drawn closer to the law-and-order pathology while liberals and youth are pushed further to the left.



In addition to the vagueness of the definition of conspiracy, the law gives the Government other advantages:

1. The principal element of conspiracy—the agreement—can be proved by far-reaching circumstantial evidence. These items of evidence are called "overt acts," and from them the jury is supposed to infer that a conspiracy does in fact exist. In the Harrisburg case, several overt acts consisted of such facts as, "John Doe moved to Washington on July 12" (in entirety). or "On April 6, Jane Doe made a call to Lewisburg" (in entirety). This is the type of circumstantial evidence that can be the basis of conspiracy indictments.

2. The Government can use the out-of-court acts and statements of any of the accused against the others if these acts can be shown to be related to the charges.

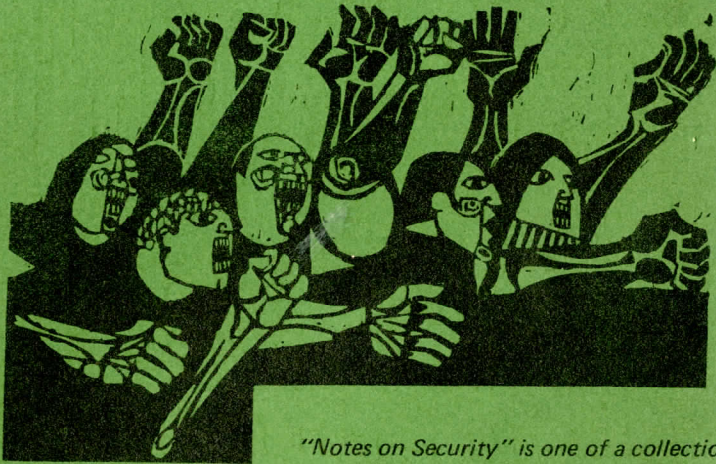
The same out-of-court evidence *cannot* be used in non-conspiracy trials.

3. The crime of conspiracy is complete even if in fact the illegal means or ends of the conspiracy are never implemented or attained. The proof of an agreement (expressed or implied) plus, usually, proof of an overt act is enough.

4. The Government can bring a conspiracy indictment in any part of the country where they allege that parts of the agreement were made or that overt acts occurred. This gives them a wide choice of trial locales and enables them to bring the action in areas where they can get the most favorable judges and juries.

The conspiracy laws also give the prosecutor a handy tool for making mass busts of groups, to tie them up with high bail and to smear them with the "conspiracy" label. Security methods must take into account the use of these laws. This means generally being much more careful about what we say or joke about, and to whom. Of course, we should not give up our political work out of fear of prosecution for conspiracy, as deterrence is precisely the Government's object.





*"Notes on Security" is one of a collection of articles on movement security and legal repression. The Movement Security Kit is available for \$1.00 to all movement groups from:*

**RESIST**  
763 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Mass. 02139  
telephone: 617/491-8076