

# FBI Files Reveal FSU Campus Ties

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While campuses across the nation exploded in violence in the late 1960s and early 1970s, J. Edgar Hoover grew impatient with FBI reports that New Left activists at Fresno State University and other campuses were peaceful, disorganized and harmless.

Campuses in the Central Valley were such sleepy backwaters at the height of the anti-Vietnam student protest movement, according to the FBI's own files, that tracking violent behavior was like looking for a needle in a haystack.

Hoover's correspondence with the FBI's Sacramento office, made public by the FBI as part of new disclosures about its Vietnam-era disruption tactics against radical group refers to Fresno State University and other campuses in the Valley and the cooperation of college administrator in the investigation of New Left activities.

Dr. Karl Falk, who served as act-

ing president of FSU from November 1969 until he was succeeded by Norman A. Baxter in July 1970, admitted his administration had contact with the FBI during that time as well as with other agencies.

Baxter, meanwhile, denied any involvement.

"At that time, we neither sought or rejected" contact with the agency, said Falk. The contact that was made "was not beyond what would normally occur" between a college administration and law officials during times of increasing campus unrest, according to Falk.

Referring to the turmoil that had hit the Shaw Avenue campus in the

early 1970s, Falk said if any contact was made it was only to "keep the place open, to prevent the kids from getting hurt and provide an education for those who wanted it."

Falk, who took over on a temporary basis after the abrupt resignation of Frederic A. Ness in October 1969, said he has no recollection of Ness telling him at the time about FBI cooperation or of any investigation of militant group activities on the FSU campus during Ness' tenure.

Ness, in a telephone interview, said neither he nor any of his administrators participated in any investigations. However, he said there was "some contact" with the FBI during

that time although he refused to disclose either the subject matter or who was involved.

Ness said his recollection is hazy but on one occasion he was given information that there would be some type of disruption on the campus.

He said he does not remember who the informant was but that the person was not with the FBI.

Ness said he is convinced that the turmoil that did take place on the FSU campus was not part of any organized national conspiracy. "It was just a part of the times."

Baxter told The Bee that there has been no program during his presidency of cooperating with the FBI in a

campaign against New Left activists.

Baxter, interviewed in Long Beach, stated flatly he was not contacted by the FBI and that when he became president of the university he was not notified of any previous investigations or of cooperation with the FBI.

Baxter said if any administrators were taking part in any such campaign during his tenure, they were doing it on their own.

Chancellor Glenn S. Dumke, also contacted at Long Beach, said he "doesn't know anything about FBI cooperation with the schools." Baxter and Dumke are attending a meeting of the California State University and Colleges trustees.

The FBI had planted informants at several Sacramento area colleges to keep tabs on the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and other militant groups. It was poised to "disrupt" their operations if they ever became a problem.

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