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Surveillance Targets Push For Trial of Ex-FBI Officials

By Robert Pear
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Victims of allegedly illegal FBI surveillance have urged Attorney General Griffin Bell to pursue the prosecution of three ex-FBI officials accused of authorizing wiretaps, mail openings and "black bag jobs."

Coming to Washington yesterday to make their plea, the targets of the surveillance in the early 1970s said they felt forgotten in the current legal skirmishing between the Justice Department and lawyers for the former FBI officials.

As the "injured parties," they said, they were particularly interested in seeing the government pursue the prosecution of former acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray and two senior aides, W. Mark Felt and Edward S. Miller.

Chief U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant is scheduled to hold a hearing today on the prosecutors' request to delay the trial, scheduled to begin Monday, until March or April.

THE FIVE WOMEN who visited the Justice Department yesterday had all been friends of radical members of the Weather Underground. They say their constitutional rights were violated in the course of an intensive hunt for Weatherman fugitives conducted by a special squad of agents from the FBI's New York field office in the early 1970s.

The women said they were "outraged" by reports that the Justice Department might be forced to drop its case against Gray, Miller and Felt because of national security considerations — presumably, a desire to protect counterintelligence operations and intelligence-collection techniques.

In their statement to the attorney general, the women said they feared "a dangerous precedent is being set: those guilty of illegal break-ins, surveillance and worse will never be prosecuted for their actions... and there will be no official public hearing on the matter."

THE WOMEN GAVE their statement to one of Bell's aides, Terrence Adamson, who said the Justice Department still had a "commitment to go forward with the prosecution" despite various problems.

Judith Clark, 29, a spokesman for the group, said, "We are the people who the government admits were the targets of the FBI's illegal actions."

Other members of the group, all from New York, are Dana Biberman, 28, Nataliee Rosenstein, 31, Eve Rosahn, 28, and Jane Spielman, 32.

The indictment of Gray, Felt and Miller says the FBI in 1972 and 1973 broke into Clark's New York City residence on three occasions. The indictment of John J. Kearney, supervisor of the FBI's Squad 47, said that the FBI illegally intercepted mail sent to



ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL
Gets statement from women

Clark, Biberman and Spielman while also tapping Biberman's telephone.

(The Justice Department decided not to proceed against Kearney after concluding that his actions had been authorized by his superiors.)

THE WOMEN COMPLAINED yesterday that official "surveillance" and "harassment" of them continues, particularly since they filed a civil lawsuit last year seeking to recover damages in U.S. District Court in New York City.

"It sounds paranoid, I know, but we were right before," Biberman said.

In response to a query, Homer Boynton, chief spokesman for the FBI, said, "Any charge of continued harassment or surveillance of these individuals is totally false."

Biberman says her home was broken into and ransacked while she was speaking at a press conference to announce the civil suit May 16 last year. Clark says her apartment was burned down on June 23 while she was speaking at a public forum on Cointelpro, the government's counterintelligence program against domestic subversives.