

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
GRAND JURY DEFENSE OFFICE

2588 Mission Street, Rm. 207, San Francisco, California 94110 (415) 285-9206

May 22, 1973

Dear Lincoln,

We sent a copy of this to both you and Claude, hoping that one or the other of you would notice. Actually, after re-reading this we decided that it may not be terribly newsworthy, but it would be good if you could find a place to use it.

In solidarity,

Suzanne

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

This past week three seemingly unrelated stories have been given prominent attention in the press: (1) Robert Mardian, former head of the Justice Department's Internal Security Division, has been accused in the course of the Watergate probe of transferring illegal wiretaps in the Pentagon Papers case from the Justice Department to the White House; (2) Seventeen anti-war protesters in Camden New Jersey were acquitted on charges of destroying draft board files in a case in which the defense proved that a government informer had acted as an agent provocateur (S.F. Chronicle, front page story, May 21st); and (3) the Justice Department admitted that it had a special intelligence unit, and also stated that it had planted an informer into the ranks of the radical Weatherman organization.

The Grand Jury Defense Office of the National Lawyers Guild today issued the following statement explaining that a link between these events can be found in what it termed the "sordid practices of the Justice Department in planning and conducting illegal politically motivated investigations of political dissenters":

"Under Attorney General John Mitchell the Justice Department's Internal Security Division (ISD) was beefed-up and given major responsibilities for the first time since the days of Senator McCarthy. Robert Mardian was placed as the head of the ISD. A Special Litigation Section was created within the ISD, with attorney Guy Goodwin at its head; it was charged with conducting grand jury investigations of political dissenters.

"The Camden acquittal is one in a series of ISD cases, many under the direction of Guy Goodwin, in which the Justice Department's methods have proven questionable, and the charges against the defendants unfounded. Others include the Berrigan Harrisburg trial (in which the government, using an unreliable informer, had charged a plot to kidnap Henry Kissinger. The jury voted to acquit the defendants of that charge); the Pentagon Papers trial (in which the judge threw out the case because of the government's illegal wiretap practices, and because of the government's false denials to the court that it had engaged in wiretapping); and a case charging leaders of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War with planning to disrupt the Democratic Convention in Florida (the case has not yet been brought to trial, but already the government's informer has confessed himself to be an agent provocateur-- see Harper's December 1972). Each of these cases began with an ISD grand jury investigation.

MORE MORE MORE MORE MORE MORE

"These trials represent the tip of the iceberg. The Special Litigation Section of the ISD, under Goodwin's direction, has conducted dozens of other political grand juries in which it has hauled people all over the country before secret grand juries and forced them, upon pain of going to jail for 18 months, to testify about their family, friends, and political associations. In these grand juries the Justice Department has issued blanket denials of wiretapping, and so far the courts have refused to question these denials. The recent Watergate disclosures about the wiretap practices of Attorney General Mitchell and Robert Mardian make it apparent that the Justice Department denials are not trustworthy.

"Recently the public has become aware of these practices. Senator Kennedy, in public testimony before Congress, has called the ISD's grand jury practices 'the second coming of Joe McCarthy.' And former Senator Charles Goodell has condemned Goodwin's grand juries as 'inquisitions intended to punish and inhibit protected expression and political activity.' Currently there are two Goodwin grand juries in San Francisco.

"Last month the Administration announced that the ISD was being 'abolished'-- actually it was merely transferred in tact to the Justice Department's Criminal Division, where Goodwin and other attorneys continue their practices. Presumably the transfer was made in the hope that in the more amorphous Criminal Division the ISD would attract less notoriety.

"The ISD and its operations should be abolished in fact. Guy Goodwin should be fired. The pattern and practice of illegal wiretaps and the use of agents provocateur should be ended. The sordid practice of the Justice Department in planning and conducting illegal politically motivated investigations of political dissenters should be eliminated entirely."

For more information contact the Grand Jury Defense Office, 285-9206.

Recent articles and broadcasts on the Guy Goodwin grand juries include:

Goodell, Where Did The Grand Jury Go? Harper's, May 1973

Cowan, The New Grand Jury. New York Times Magazine, April 29, 1973

Fosburg, Who is Guy Goodwin and Why are They Saying Those

Terrible Things About Him? Juris Doctor Jan./Feb. 1973

Westinghouse Group W TV Broadcasting Special on Surveillance

(shown locally on KPIX on May 6, 1973)

Kennedy, Testimony on Grand Jury Abuse, House Judiciary Subcommittee No. 1, March 13, 1973