

BOOK REVIEW

COINTELPRO

The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

Until publication of Sanford Ungar's *FBI* (CHOICE, Jul.-Aug. 1976), most books about the Federal Bureau of Investigation were highly partisan. This was inevitable; the virtually total restrictions on research into F.B.I. files effectively precluded serious scholarship.

Recently, however, this barrier has been breached, and thousands of F.B.I. documents have been declassified through the congressional intelligence committee's investigations and suits brought under the Freedom of Information Act. *Cointelpro*, one product of that breakthrough, provides invaluable insights into the bureau's crassly political attempts to discredit radical political activities (relating to the Socialist Workers party, civil rights organizations, and the anti-Viet-Nam War movement).

Noam Chomsky has written a thoughtful introduction to this well organized compilation of F.B.I. documents; Nelson Blackstock's textual analysis is less sophisticated and more sectarian. The heart—and value—of this book, however, consists of the reproduction of 114 pages of 75 F.B.I. documents detailing the bureau's priorities, tactics, and illegalities.

Highly recommended for all libraries as a reference work; a useful supplement to the reports and hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities.