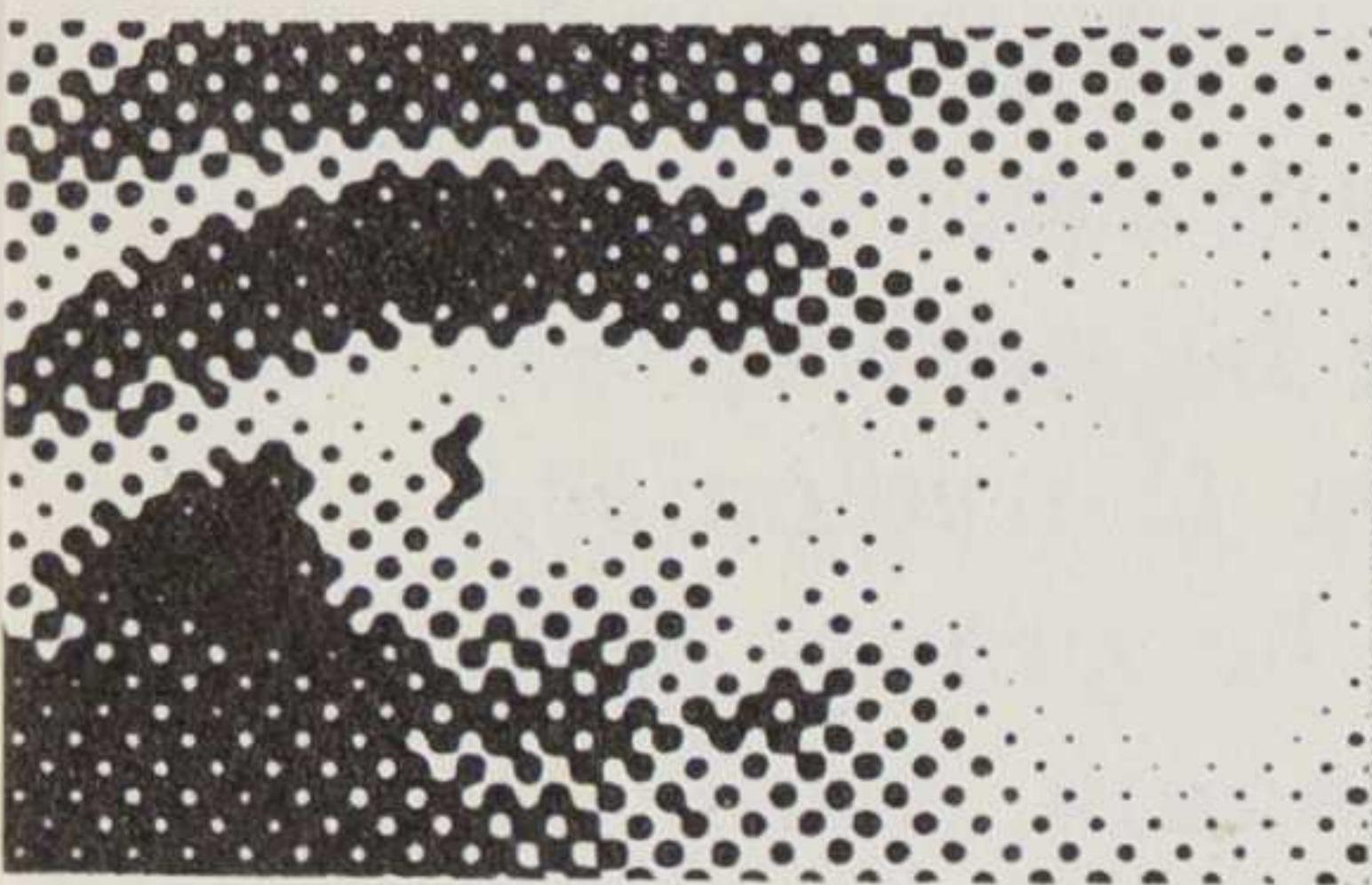




WHO IS WATCHING *You?*

The loss of freedom and privacy in the United States and the threat of further loss is indicated by the thousands of government employees who watch, check, record, inspect, investigate, and supervise us.

RALPH L. WOODS

RECENTLY, Cleveland industrialist Cyrus S. Eaton condemned the Federal Bureau of Investigation because it engages "in snooping, in informing, in creeping up on people," and he asserted that not even Hitler at the height of his power "had such spy organizations as we have in this country today."

Such pinpointed denunciation of the F.B.I. suggests either unawareness or indifference to the widespread snooping, investigating, policing, and supervising done by various other agencies of the executive branch of the federal government, many of which have larger staffs and greater powers than the much-abused F.B.I.

A careful look at the ever-expanding activities of our government reveals an impressive — and

possibly depressing — number of federal employees who are principally or exclusively engaged in watching and recording what goes on in a vast array of human activities. Whether one welcomes or deplores this trend, the facts should be of interest.

The F.B.I., it should be recognized at the outset, will always be the prime target for various malcontents and publicity seekers. Its operations — or at least the results it achieves — are dramatic. It has captured the public's imagination and is good newspaper "copy." Though attacked and misrepresented by the communists and other traitors it exposes, the F.B.I. cannot answer its accusers without revealing details that would prevent a successful completion of its work. Furthermore, the F.B.I. is frankly and necessarily a government detective agency, with the total of its

agents or investigators a matter of public record. In short, there is no question as to the nature of the Bureau's work and its numerical investigative strength.

Farmer, Indians, Businessmen . . .

But what about all the other governmental agencies engaged in watching, checking, investigating, and supervising — the ones that seem to be unknown to and unmentioned by the highly articulate "freedom fighters"?

The F.B.I. has 13,760 on its payroll, but the Civil Aeronautics Administration has 23,000 and six of the Department of Agriculture's 24 sections (Forestry, Soil Conservation, Agricultural Marketing, Commodity Stabilization, Federal Crop Insurance, and Farmers Home Administration) have a total manpower of 68,000.

We are *not* here concerned with the value or necessity of these activities, but only with the extent to which the government engages in watching, recording, investigating, and supervising. If the Civil Aeronautics Administration and the Department of Agriculture employees are as attentive to their duties as F.B.I. men are said to be to theirs, then the airlines and the farmers are perhaps more carefully watched and certainly more firmly supervised than are the secretive and considerably

less reputable characters and enterprises the F.B.I. customarily investigates. No doubt airlines and farmers on occasion resent interference by government but, being unashamed of their activities, they do not work themselves into an hysterical lather as a diversionary tactic. Consequently, the public is only vaguely aware that they are watched and supervised by government.

The myopia of the headline-hunting critics is illustrated by their failure to mention that the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs has 10,862 employees — or about one federal meddler for every 35 Indians whether on or off the reservations. One might well speculate on the extent to which this situation is responsible for much of the social erosion suffered by the Indians.

Business, of course, is much watched and often rigidly regulated and supervised by the government. Few would disagree with the basic principle that government is needed as an umpire or referee to minimize fraud, violence, and other malpractices.

But how many umpires or referees are needed? The Securities and Exchange Commission has the surprisingly small but effective force of 834, the Federal Trade Commission a relative handful at 724, and the Federal Power Com-

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