

AFFIDAVIT OF TIM JOHNSON, Executive Director

Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia

On numerous occasions, business supporters of Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia and the issues on which it works have told me that they fear reprisal if they are identified as supporters of our work. Specifically, they have stated that they will be pushed into a higher rate bracket if they are identified with Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia. More than one have stated they would be put out of business if they were identified as our supporters.

I hereby affirm that the information contained in this affidavit is true.

April 1, 1985  
Date

Tim Johnson  
Tim Johnson  
Executive Director  
Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia

*Sworn to and subscribed  
before me this undersigned  
Notary Public  
W. H. Goldbey*

from

# NUCLEAR POWER AND CIVIL LIBERTIES CAN WE HAVE BOTH?

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 1983  
GA. CONSUMERS' UTILITY  
COUNSEL  
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Edited by

KEN BOSSONG



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TARGETS AND VICTIMS

*"Commercial nuclear power is viable only under social conditions of absolute stability and predictability. Yet the mere existence of fissionable materials undermines the security that nuclear technology requires. Increased deployment of nuclear power must lead to a more authoritarian society. Reliance on nuclear power as the principal source of energy is probably possible only in a totalitarian state."*

-- Denis Hayes, author  
*Nuclear Power: The Fifth Horseman*

I. Georgia:

February 1973: Concern about diminishing energy resources is mounting among members of the American public. A dire scarcity is in sight. Around the country, citizen organizations are forming to address the issue and to challenge the utilities. One such group, the Georgia Power Project, sponsors an "Energy Crisis Convention" in Atlanta and begins a legal intervention against the local nuclear power plant. A Texas police investigator issues a secret report on the Convention which is rapidly dispensed to law enforcement officials and private security departments around the country. The Georgia Power Project is described in the report as a "bolshevik brain trust set up to wreck the electric business". The four-billion dollar Georgia Power Company quickly moves into action against the newly-formed citizens' group. Within three months of the Convention, the southern utility opens elaborate secret offices in Atlanta to conduct "security" operations, intelligence, surveillance, and harassment of the activists. The plainclothes division is modeled after those at Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric, and the Alabama Power Company. It is carefully stocked with professional investigators and intelligence operatives from the nation's most effective units: Army intelligence, the FBI, the U.S. Treasury Department's Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, and Georgia's own Bureau of Investigation.

The utility spy unit quickly went into operation, collecting files and photographing demonstrations by the Georgia Power Project. Roger Allen Grigg worked around the clock one evening in the spring of 1974 to process a rush film order from the secret unit. The subject of the photos was a protest march in front of the Georgia Power Building at 270 Peachtree Street in Atlanta. Grigg remembers making prints of six or seven rolls of film; "What really made it humorous is it was the same group of people walking around in a circle in every shot. Although security department representatives contend there was nothing secret about the photography, it is known that cameras employing telephoto lenses for close-ups of individuals were set up next door to the Georgia Power Building during demonstrations because its copper-tinted windows did a better job of concealing the surveillance equipment. In fact, during one march, an entire department was temporarily displaced so that the cameras could be moved into the strategic site. On at least one occasion, a local law enforcement agency also joined the Georgia Power Company in its covert surveillance operations.

Richard D. Clark Jr. is the head intelligence officer covering the eight-member Emory University detail for the DeKalb County Police. (The DeKalb County

Police are members of a national police spy network called the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit). In August 1974, Art Benson telephoned Sergeant Clark at his office on the Emory campus. Benson, who attended a number of law enforcement schools, was seasoned in his knowledge of the field. After completing his Army duty in 1963, he joined the police force in Boynton Beach, Florida. He later became an intelligence officer for Florida's state beverage department until he was offered and accepted a position as a special agent with the U.S. Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

In June 1973, he joined the Georgia Power Company as chief of its investigative section with some eighty employees under his supervision. Benson describes himself as a "quasi" police officer registered with the Secretary of State's private detective, private security act. Accordingly, he and other members of the utility's spy unit (all of whom are required to be registered) have full arrest powers in the state for violations of any state law against Georgia Power including, for example, criminal trespass.

It was in the context of his position at Georgia Power that Benson placed his call to Clark, inviting the Sergeant to join him at a talk being sponsored by the Revolutionary Union on August 17 at Emory University. He explained that a demonstration was being planned at Georgia Power's Hatch Nuclear Power Plant and the Revolutionary Union, a self-avowed communist organization, might be participating in it. Sergeant Clark agreed to go with Benson.

Armed with a tape recorder and a camera, Sergeant Clark and another police officer joined Benson the night of the meeting. Clark took them to the library, where he used his own key to unlock the projector room booth which overlooked the auditorium where the speech was being given. From their privileged vantage point, they could observe the meeting without being seen by those in the auditorium below. The keynote speaker mentioned the nuclear power plant demonstration being planned by the Georgia Power Project at the beginning of his talk but made no further references. Reporter Steve Galyon subsequently reported that he ran into Clark that evening and says that the intelligence officer told him that he was there "attempting to find a connection between the Georgia Power Project and the Revolutionary Union." Clark denies having made this statement.

The events surrounding the evening at Emory University were outlined by Benson and Clark in depositions connected with a lawsuit brought by the Georgia Power Project in 1974 to block the utility from increasing customer rates. But it was not until September 9, 1977 that the extent of the utility's elaborate intelligence operations were made public in an outstanding expose by reporters Tom Baxter and Mike Christensen of The Atlanta Journal. For months, the two reporters carefully gathered documentation and cultivated their own "Deep Throats" within the company. Their efforts marked the first in-depth look at intelligence operations by a utility against anti-nuclear activists.

They revealed that the utility's spy unit has an annual budget of over \$750,000. (Since the Atlanta Journal story, at least one inside source has stated that the budget, in fact, was much higher; perhaps over a million annually. He has described a large slush fund -- virtually any amount of cash needed was available. In one week alone, he withdrew \$10,000 from the fund.) The Journal cited some as having described the security unit as "equal to or better than that used by any police detective unit in the state." "According to Washington Post reporter Bill



Richards, FBI agents complained that Georgia Power was way ahead of them in its surveillance ability.

The Atlanta Journal also reported:

"Each investigator, it is said, receives a company car (painted to disguise its identity), a pistol, a shotgun, radios, and a camera. The section has sophisticated camera equipment (including a night-time photography telescope), fingerprint kits, drug analysis kits, and a videotape unit.

"The department has defended its use of such equipment including changeable headlights and taillights on their cars, saying it is necessary in certain investigations.

"(At the flip of a switch, an investigator who is tailing someone or who feels he is being tailed can alter the configuration of his car lights, thus confusing the other party.)"

William Lovin, a former member of the security unit, told reporters that he had seen the company's wiretapping equipment. The use of such equipment in the state of Georgia is illegal.

Georgia Power was apparently not above going undercover to gather information. Benson himself has been caught at pulling a disguise from his bag of dirty tricks. He told Georgia Power Project activist Neil Herring that he was a short order fry cook while the two sipped beer in a tavern. Benson apparently attempted to entrap Herring by revealing that he was skilled in the use of explosives. "I have never wanted to blow up anything," Herring later said, "and tried to explain to him that I was not against electricity, only against the people who made it." It wasn't until later, after the incident, that Herring discovered his companion's true identity.

According to Herring, the company "did succeed in stealing information although such efforts were of dubious value given the generally open nature of the organization and its offices."

Lovin claimed that Georgia Power investigators had access to police information, explaining, "I'd give a sheriff a list of names and he'd tell me if there was anything on them anywhere, no matter who they were." (The DeKalb County Police are members of the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit, which enables them to freely exchange intelligence with 224 other law enforcement agencies around the country.) Captain Howard Baugh of the Intelligence Division of the Atlanta Police Department has refused, though, to release any documents about such matters.

Georgia Power also gets information from the FBI's National Crime Information Center, a national computer linking police departments. They were told to burn the information after transcribing it. Lovins reported that he has been told by others that Georgia Power's P.R. department used the derogatory information gathered to discredit the company's opponents as "commies and queers". And, in fact, a member of the Georgia Power Project has reported that the Company stages or placed several articles attacking his group in right-wing publications, including American Opinion Magazine.

Lovin told NBC News that Georgia Power had asked him to conduct an investigation using illegal and improper methods:

"I would have felt no qualms about checking this man out had he have actually communicated the threat that I was led to believe that he had actually communicated. Only later did I learn that the only thing he had communicated was a dissatisfaction with the commercial rates of Georgia Power."

There have been other mysterious cases of harassment in Georgia. Helen Mills of Atlanta has been actively working to stop nuclear power for years. Until the middle of 1977, when she became identified as a prominent friend of Jimmy Carter, she had been the target of a concerted harassment effort. Her mail was opened on a regular basis with letters arriving torn in the upper right hand corner near the stamp. At times, it was crumpled or thrown about the street. For a period close to a year, she would receive late night phone calls running from 2:30 a.m. and continuing until 8 a.m. The calls arrived with such regularity, despite switching telephone numbers, that Helen was finally forced to begin her day at their onset. She felt that her phone may have been tapped because it made many "strange" noises. Often, while talking with people long distance, the phone would be disconnected through no fault of either party. This continued until she was forced to abandon the phone for more reliable means of communication. "Ralph Nader" would sometimes call Helen to ask what she was up to. She'd tell him; but later discover it was not Nader. Helen, an avid birdwatcher, would regularly find dead birds in her front yard.

Another Georgian anti-nuclear activist, Tim Johnson, has reported:

"I began receiving telephone calls at all hours; the pattern was always the same -- I'd answer, then a brief pause; I'd start to repeat "Hello" but they'd hang up. This went on for months.

"On one occasion, I was followed by a station wagon with wood panel-painting on the side and one burned-out headlight; upon noticing the car, I followed a strange path, which seemed to have lost it. A few minutes later, however, I noticed the same car. Becoming frightened, I again took a strange path, with many turns, doubling-back, etc. and then pulled into a drive-in theatre. I assumed I had lost the car but between ten and thirty minutes later, the same car pulled slowly through the drive-in parking lot and parked out of sight."

Former members of the utility's investigative unit has reported that Georgia Power conducted a "background investigation" of Ralph Nader's operation and sent a company investigator to attend a Nader conference in Washington

John H. Taylor, a former senior member of the Georgia Power spy unit, described the company's efforts as "a dirt-gathering operation."

The utility security section uses cross-indexed files and issues monthly reports on its operations. Reporters Baxter and Christensen obtained lists of cases with the following among the headings: "Management Request for Investigation Outside GPC", "Miscellaneous", and "Open-S", (they were told that the last is the most sensitive classification and is used for subversives. "Subversive" was defined by one source as "anyone who spoke out against Georgia Power."

The documents specifically revealed that Georgia Power had investigated Ralph Nader's Congress Project, Interpeace, news media, and unnamed individuals. In addition to the sampling of documents obtained by the Atlanta Journal reporters, sources also told them some other Georgia Power targets, among whom was Gene Guerrero, a former Georgia Power Project activist, who is now Director of the Georgia ACLU.

In addition to its own agents, Georgia Power also found use for the services of John Rees, who Art Benson says is a personal friend. Along with his wife Louise, Rees published a right-wing intelligence report called Information Digest; subscribers to the publication include top intelligence agencies at all government levels, law enforcement types, security firms, and private industry. Georgia Power puts names and data obtained from Information Digest into the company's investigative files. On November 3, 1972, some five months prior to the Georgia Power Project's "Energy Crisis Convention", the publication reported:

"the Georgia Power Company has come under attack from a small active coalition of radicals operating under the name, Georgia Power Project."

Louise Rees is employed as a researcher by Georgia Congressman Larry McDonald. A spokesperson for McDonald's office has said that Louise Rees is "researching terrorism" and "supports the defense of American freedom". (Perhaps by coincidence, McDonald, under the cloak of Congressional immunity, regularly uses his access to the Congressional Record to bring red-baiting attacks on citizen groups, among whom of course is the Georgia Power Project.)

The Atlanta Journal was told that Georgia Power provided John Rees with a van and a credit card in late 1973 or early 1974 which enabled him to operate out of Washington, D.C. and to keep an eye on other groups as well. According to Georgia Power Project members, Rees joined them in their Atlanta activities and would pass out leaflets for them. Rees himself told the Journal reporters that he and the company "have a mutuality of interest" in the Georgia Power Project, the National Lawyers Guild, the Southern Conference Education Fund, and the October League because, according to Rees, these groups "have been antagonistic towards Georgia Power."

The Institute for Policy Studies, the Socialist Workers Party, and the National Lawyers Build have all filed civil liberties lawsuits against John and Louise Rees. And guess who is representing the Rees's? The Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice!

On the suggestion of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Georgia Power has also employed the California firm Research West to conduct background investigations of employees and dissidents. According to the Journal reporters;

"A Californian named Jerry Ducote admitted -- after the criminal statute of limitations pertinent to his activities ran out -- that he performed 17 break-ins at offices of liberal leaders such as Cesar Chavez in the mid-1960's, obtaining information which was funneled into Western Research's (now Research West) files."

Georgia Power President Robert W. Scherer told reporters: "We ... don't run a Gestapo." The company states that is "security department investigates

instances of violence or threatened violence towards the company, its facilities, and employees." Although Georgia Power cites a number of events that justify the existence of the extensive security operation, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has records of only one threat to the Hatch Nuclear Power Plant.

While it avidly pursues activists, Georgia Power apparently avoids embarrassing security investigations. In December 1976, a Georgia senate subcommittee heard testimony that the company ordered its investigator William Lovin to close an investigation of a theft case. Lovin, who was subsequently fired, says that the company was afraid that corporate executives might be implicated in the theft and they wanted the case out of the way in time for a stockholders' meeting.

According to Tim Johnson of Georgians for Clean Energy:

"The company has, according to a follow-up article in the Journal-Constitution (September 11, 1977) claimed that if the company ever kept such files, they have been destroyed. This contradicts earlier statements on Channel 5's news the night the story broke; a Georgia Power spokesperson said that anyone whose file contained non-criminal information could see the files; and in the original Journal article, it was reported that Georgia Power President Robert Scherer 'declined to say whether the files might be opened to anyone about whom derogatory information may have been collected'; the article also states, 'While not admitting the existence of such files, Georgia Power officials, on the advice of attorneys, have refused to release the contents of files logged on monthly case reports obtained by the Atlanta Journal.' Such public contradictions suggest the possibility of a cover-up."

Johnson's suspicions were well-based. Security officials at Georgia Power plowed through their files for twelve hours the night the Atlanta Journal article was released, so that sensitive reports could be removed, according to Terry Leedom, a spokesperson for the utility.

Larry Thomason of the Georgia Consumer Center has successfully called on the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) to investigate the Georgia Power spying with the explanation:

"The PSC certainly has the authority to eliminate from the rate-making process money for what I maintain to be illegal activities."

Thomason wants Georgia Power to eliminate funds for intelligence-gathering and refund rate-payer money spent in the past for such activities.

Georgians for Clean Energy asked the PSC to reopen hearings on the \$97.6 million rate increase granted the utility in September 1977 because of "improper use of funds listed in the rate base." (Twenty-five thousand Georgia citizens have signed petitions protesting the rate increase.)

Although Georgia Power's Security Department's avowed purpose is to protect the company and to fulfill nuclear safeguard obligations, the nuclear threat has become a convenient excuse for the surveillance and harassment of citizens who are attempting to exercise their constitutional rights. Thanks to the Atlanta Journal, more is now known about Georgia Power's spy unit than any other firm in the nuclear industry. But it is clear from a glimpse at events around the



country that Georgia Power is not alone in the kind of operations it conducts against anti-nuclear activists. At this point, one can still only speculate about the amount of resources allocated to such civil liberty violations. But if each utility operating a nuclear facility spent as much as Georgia Power, a conservative estimate would be about \$6 billion.

## II. California

In the fall of 1976, the authors received a letter from a member of Friends of the Future who reported that some members of the group "definitely felt harassed" (though specifics of this harassment were left vague). It wouldn't have been the first time anti-nuclear activists in California were being targeted. The year prior, it was learned that Standard Oil was compiling files on the Peoples Lobby.

Then, in 1977, the Abalone Alliance, which consists of Friends of the Future and a number of other organizations working against nuclear power in the state, was infiltrated by police informants. The Abalone Alliance occupied the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant on August 7, 1977 and had thirty-one of its members arrested for the action. Charles Smith and Richard James Lee, both sheriff's deputies, were among those arrested. While incarcerated, the occupiers got word that "Smith's wife had been in an auto accident." Smith was released by the authorities and never heard from again. Alliance members were suspicious and told a local investigative reporter Pete Dunan. Dunan looked into the matter and discovered the infiltration.

Abalone Alliance attorney Richard Frishman filed a motion to dismiss the protestors' charges of criminal trespass because the informants had violated the attorney-client relationship. He argued that the informants had undermined the ability of the group to trust one another and to work together. Since the Sheriff Department's officials admitted that they had already satisfied themselves that there was no evidence of violence or terrorism, the defense contended that the ostensible purpose of Lee's work was to discover the group's legal defense strategy.

Lee swore under oath that he had attended a number of meetings with the group's attorney to plan strategy and future events. Lee drew a map of the site for the attorneys which contained significant errors that have resulted in the Alliance losing its first round in court. Also, Lee admitted being the only member of the group to espouse violence as a possible response to any police provocation that might have occurred on the day of the occupation. The motion to dismiss the charges was denied by the municipal and Superior Courts and the Court of Appeals, but the California State Supreme Court blocked the trial pending determination.

Another incident of note took place in Los Angeles. There, in February 1977, the City Council held hearings about the proposed Sundesert Nuclear Power Plant. In the middle of the hearings, the L.A. Police showed up with movie cameras and proceeded to film the testimony of those who opposed the plant. One policeman told a reporter it was for "identification purposes." The City Council kicked the police out of the hearing and confiscated the film. In order to decide what legal action to pursue, the nuclear opponents requested a copy of the City Council's tape recording of the proceedings. To their surprise, they were told that

12/25/77 NBC News

Utility Security -- Altmeyer

Aerial nuclear plant  
Altmeyer v/o

security guard toward camera

security guard o/c

cameraman

security guard

cameraman

security guard

Altmeyer v/o

security guard

Pullback off transformer, reveal  
Altmeyer o/c

Altmeyer v/o Atlanta skyline  
v/o woman past fountain to  
Ga. Power sign and building

Ever since power companies began building  
nuclear plants, there has been considerable  
opposition . . . opposition that has led  
concern by the power companies about possi-  
ble sabotage or theft of nuclear material  
to make weapons.

Let me see your camera pass.

Pardon me?

Let me see your camera pass.

We don't have one.

You don't have one?

Power companies, prodded by the federal  
government over the last few years, have  
been enlarging their security forces.

Turn down this road. Let's go to the main  
gate.

But increasingly questions are being asked  
as to how far these security departments  
are going not in protecting their companies'  
properties and personnel, but rather in  
gathering information and surveilling  
people who may oppose nuclear power plants  
or those who may oppose something as simple  
as a utility rate increase.

Atlanta . . . . .

This is the headquarters of Georgia Power  
Company, a four billion dollar giant --  
one of the largest providers of power in the  
country.

# Utility Security

v/o zoom through car antennae  
to security building

out of focus, pan to reveal -  
PG&E plant  
zoom in Alabama Power Co.

v/o Georgia Power exterior

Altmeier w/o over shoulder shot  
documents  
Chiron: "subversives"

Chiron: "threat to company"

v/o Taylor, Lovin

Taylor o/c

Lovin o/c

Some fifteen miles away in this unmarked building is Georgia Power's security department. It was started in 1973 and was modeled after several other major utility company security departments including Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric and the Alabama Power Company. Recent disclosures by the Atlanta Journal and new information uncovered by NBC News show that Georgia Power was engaged in a widespread intelligence gathering campaign.

Internal Georgia Power documents refer to information being gathered on so-called "subversives" or "organizations whose activities would present a threat to company operations."

William Lovin and John Taylor used to be security investigators for Georgia. A person would fall into a subversive category who would fit into the antagonist category. Again, that was someone who for any reason would be against the rate increases or would have some type of opposition to the operation of the power company.

The practices were deliberately designed to identify protest groups and individuals. That's it in a nutshell.

Altmeyer o/c

Lovin o/c

v/o document pan up to  
Management Requests

Altmeyer o/c

Lovin o/c

Altmeyer

Lovin o/c

By protest does that mean anti Georgia Power?

That means anyone that does not agree with Georgia Power's plans insofar as rate increases or the conduct of their business. If security was ordered to investigate they would investigate, clandestine or otherwise. Georgia Power documents show the company conducted investigations of individuals from at least one other utility and that management routinely requested investigations of individuals outside the company.

Did you ever participate in an investigation for the top management of the company of an individual?

I have participated. I did this checkout and the methodology used in accomplishing this checkout I don't care to go into . .

Why not?

. . . because it's standard practice. Because one, it's illegal; it's improper. I would have felt no qualms about checking this man out had he have actually communicated the threat that I was led to believe that he had actually communicated. Only later did I learn that the only thing he had communicated was a dissatisfaction with the commercial rates of Georgia Power.



Altmeyer v/o pan down document to "Sheriff Carter had an informant in the meeting."

v/o pullback revealing Baxley Street and sheriff's car and office

v/o zoom in FBI Building

Lovin o/c

Altmeyer o/c

Lovin o/c

Altmeyer v/o Lovin

v/o pan down building to Ga. Power sign

We've also learned local sheriffs were used by the company -- in this case to plant a spy in a union meeting.

The then sheriff of the county where this incident took place confirmed to NBC News that he had placed an informant for the company at the union meeting.

We found that Georgia Power investigators routinely got information from many law enforcement agencies, including the FBI's National Crime Information Center which is linked to most of the police departments around the country by computer.

I could get anything I wanted on your background by going directly to a sheriff or possibly a chief of police in this state anything that had been fed into the national computer ....

And there was no hesitancy on the part of police or the sheriff to give it to you?

Well, the only hesitancy is this. When we give you the computer printout, the information, as soon as you've transcribed it, burn it. The only hesitancy is that you burn the information after you get it.

And what was done with this information?

Several other sources say Georgia Power's public relations department used it to discredit some opponents of the company as -

v/o pullback from Power to  
reveal Ga. Power sign in halo  
of light

Chiron: Georgia Power: "We're  
not going to talk about it."

v/o zoom into Pacific Gas &  
Electric

v/o ecu Ducote

quote -- "commies and queers." This was  
referred to as public education.

Georgia Power refused NBC News requests for  
an interview about the company's security  
department. A spokesman said -- "We're  
not going to talk about it."

In our next report a look at the security  
practices of the largest electric utility  
in the country. And a bizarre story of  
burglaries of people's homes and offices  
by this man -- a self-admitted thief.

Paul Altmeyer, NBC News.

# the atlantan

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25¢

## NewsWatch

by Maxine A. Rock

### Play Power

Georgia Power officials admitted this week that secret files and security police are part of their operations. The company said it investigated private citizens and groups in Atlanta which might be "opponents of utility interests." The information was kept in secret Georgia Power files, but the company said it destroyed the files because of press publicity.

A conservation group called the Georgia Power Project was supposedly tailed and "investigated" by the utility company. Other target groups were the Ralph Nader Congress Project, the Interpeace Organization, antiwar activists and "dissidents thought to be in Atlanta." One of these, according to Georgia Power, is Gene Guerrero, now director of the Georgia branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, based in Atlanta. One Georgia Power official admitted that a "subversive" was "anyone who spoke out against Georgia Power."

To keep watch over these "subversives," Georgia Power has a large, well-equipped private security department, housed in the La Vista Perimeter Office Park, near DeKalb's Northlake Mall. The department is headed by J. Wyman Lamb; it has experienced investigators who used disguised cars, expensive cameras, fingerprint kits and videotape units. The Georgia Power "Gestapo" is also equipped with pistols and shotguns.

Although Georgia Power President Robert W. Scherer says he doesn't run a "Gestapo" and utility spokesmen say the files on "subversives" have been destroyed, the company will keep its security department running. It gets information for the department at least partly from a man in Washington, John Rees.

Rees is a right-wing "undercover agent" allegedly "watches" people and groups. His wife, Louise, now works with 7th District U.S. Representative Larry McDonald, and it has been reported that Rees was subsidized in Atlanta by the Georgia Power Company.

Alamos nuclear facility, where she had been taken following her contamination one week before her death.

Other deaths and suspicious one-car highway accidents are beginning to characterize the fate of several antinuke activists. On April 14, 1979, Michael Eakin, 28, a well-known writer and antinuke organizer, was assassinated in Houston [see "Earthwatch," *New Age*, July 1979]; Sheehan feels that this killing had earmarks of a job performed by "professional-style hired hit men." Lately, other antinuke organizers in Texas have been beaten and harassed. Several years ago, David Comey, an award-winning physicist who helped expose the dangers of radon gas, died in a one-car accident as he was driving from Chicago to Madison, Wisconsin. Anthony Maz-

zocchi, a high official with the OCAW union who has advocated stricter safety standards for nuclear workers, narrowly escaped death recently, according to Dr. Bertell, when his car was destroyed after he suddenly blacked out while driving. "He doesn't remember what happened," Dr. Bertell says, yet she theorizes: "There's an invisible chemical in existence now that can be painted on a car's steering wheel; when the driver absorbs it, he or she passes out. Later, the chemical evaporates from the steering wheel, leaving no clues." If this theory seems incredible, one need only consider the recent, widely published revelations that the CIA had plans to assassinate foreign leaders using an array of bizarre chemicals and techniques.

The clandestine, quasi-official net-

work of surveillance and suppression that harassed, and probably killed, Silkwood and that recently has been directed against others in the antinuke movement, according to Sheehan, "is in fact the same people—the same system—that undertook illegal surveillance against people who were opposed to the Vietnam War. All the methodologies that had been developed to try to neutralize the antiwar movement were in fact simply rolled into place against the antinuke organizers in the 1970s. It's the exact same people, using the same equipment, the same filing systems, and the same computers; it's just that the target is different."

Sheehan alludes to secret staff meetings which the NRC sponsored in 1972 (confirmed in Donner's book) to "find

## The Intelligence Agencies: "More than a Conduit"

The intelligence network conducting the surveillance of antinuke activists defies a thumbnail sketch; it is a complex and clandestine grouping, and only recently have its bizarre outlines come into clearer focus.

While investigating the final year of Silkwood's life, attorney Daniel Sheehan learned that the Oklahoma City police and Kerr-McGee security agents had cooperated to spy on Silkwood well before her death—tapping her telephone, stealing and photocopying her private documents, and physically following her. When confronted with these allegations, the police denied them, adding that they did not even possess the sophisticated surveillance equipment needed for such activity. Through a secret source, however, Sheehan had obtained not only descriptions but the serial numbers of the bugging equipment.

Later the investigation led to Risk Management, an office within the George Power Company that employs at least twelve full-time intelligence agents to spy on antinuke organizers within the state. The agency, Sheehan observes, "is a classic microcosm of what goes on nationally." The Risk team employed former FBI, CIA, and military intelligence operatives, most of them trained in espionage and counterintelligence techniques. Sheehan learned, at the National

Intelligence Academy in Ft. Lauderdale, a "private" facility established by a CIA agent.

According to Sheehan, Risk Management sought information about Silkwood before she died; this information was provided through LEIU computers. The Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit is another "private" organization, a sort of "fraternity" of 240 top intelligence agents, "employed," according to Sheehan, "by large municipal and state police departments. It has its own computer network, linking at least 100 computers nationwide, for the purpose of exchanging dossiers on political leftists." According to Sheehan, Operational Systems (OP), a West Coast affiliate of LEIU, helped to conduct the illegal surveillance against Proposition 13's organizers in 1978, and OP's director, Paul Romelli, "formerly worked for the Justice Department giving out LEAA [Law Enforcement Assistance Administration] grants to local police to purchase equipment for surveillance. It's positively incestuous."

Further attempts by the Silkwood investigators to dislodge more information were met with stonewalling tactics and pleas of "national security" and "state secrets" by an Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division of the U.S. Justice Department (*New York Times*, May

7, 1978). Indeed, it appears that the government has a lot to conceal.

After Silkwood's death, an FBI informer-agent, Jacque Srouji, whose cover was serving as a full-time journalist for the *Nashville Tennessean*, was dispatched to Oklahoma by the FBI to gather information on Silkwood. *Critical Mass* (Aurora Publishers, 1976), her book about Silkwood, attacks the plutonium worker as a sexually promiscuous drug taker. While Srouji was researching the book, the FBI showed her 1,000 pages of secret documents on the Silkwood case; later the agency tried to withhold many of the same papers from the Silkwood attorneys.

In May 1976 Srouji's cover was exposed when she was compelled to testify before a congressional committee and admitted her twelve-year FBI association. She was immediately fired from the *Tennessean*, whose publisher claimed to have been unaware of her dual role. Meanwhile, *Time* (May 24, 1976) described Srouji as "more than a conduit—even an agent provocateur." *Time* quoted Nashville antinuke columnist Dolph Honicker as saying that Srouji had once tried to encourage him to destroy property in the Nashville Federal Office Building as a supposed antinuke protest.



# RIPSAW

## Enemies List Includes Guess Who?

Power Company officials and writers and correspondents of this newspaper have filled the letter columns with accusations and counter charges while the *Atlanta Journal*, in a rare piece of excellent reporting, has broken the seal surrounding the Company's security forces and published specific charges concerning Company spying on its opponents during rate increase fights. In addition, the Public Service Commission has granted a rate increase that will net the Company an additional \$97 million per year.

New residential rate schedules have also been ordered; while the particulars of those new rates have yet to be revealed, many customers will receive a rate reduction rather than an increase because of this case. The most dramatic reductions will fall on those customers who are using between 350 and 600 kilowatt hours per month.

It is plain that for some people to get rate reductions and the Company still to make more money, someone will have to pay more, the people who fall into that category are the big residential air-conditioning customers.

Electric heating customers will also pay more but it is felt that through judicious (slight) use of power in the summer, those folks can make the new schedules work in their favor over the whole year. Woe to the electric heating customer who also air-conditions.

This rate increase, while probably unjustified, at least in the amount, does represent an important step in the right direction by the PSC. By eliminating the promotional aspects of rate schedules for residential users, important inequities have been abolished.

### Nuclear Power

The other issues that the Company has been involved in concern a debate that has been carried on in this paper between the *Environment* editor, Ron Mitchell, and Company V.P. Harold McKenzie, over the issue of the breeder reactor.

The Clinch River plant's estimated cost has shot up from \$1 billion to \$10 billion in the first few years of its development and has not yet left the drawing boards. It is not a big power plant compared to many already in service and its only real recommendation is that it produces more fuel than it uses.

The fuel it produces is plutonium, a synthetic, weapons grade nuclear material that has the macabre distinction of being the most toxic substance known.

have been absolutely forced to.

Clinch River is a boon-doggle that should simply be dropped. It is too expensive, too dangerous, and too little, too late besides.

### Industrial Espionage

The matter of Company spying on opponents is something I have been personally involved with for some time. One of their agents attempted to entrap me some years ago by revealing that he was skilled in the use of explosives. I have never wanted to blow up anything that belonged to the Power Company and tried to explain to him that I was not against electricity, only against the people who made it.

Others, apparently in the Company's hire, attempted to infiltrate the Georgia Power Project

some years later.

According to the *Journal*, the Power Company gave Rees a truck and the use of a telephone credit car for his nefarious activities. The Company denies that charge, but its security boys, a Jack Webb pair named Lamb and Benson, admit to having known Rees for almost a decade and to receiving his little information sheet. Benson also admitted, to my great surprise, to having met me on the occasion of the attempted entrapment although he denies having given himself a false identity, a denial that is a flat lie.

This business of corporations spying on people they don't like and trafficking in false information about them is serious and the PSC owes the public an investigation of such activities.

The existence and use of free-lance, right wing, spying apparatus is a threat to individual freedom in this country. It is likely that Rees and the Power Company are but the tip of an iceberg of private enterprise witchhunting.

I recall a curious telephone call I received at the Power Project office some time ago from an airline pilot in Texas. This poor man had lost his job and was slandered as a "communist" for the simple and aboveboard act of intervening before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a nuclear plant case.

He was also slandered through a nonexistent connection with the Power Project, which was described as a "bolshevik brain trust set up to wreck the electric business." He had never even heard of the Power Project and was calling up to find out who we were.

He later sued the local police and power company and was totally exonerated but not before suffering incredible, stupid, and entirely avoidable indignities.

This is free-lance McCarthyism and should be brought to a screeching halt.

Rees is presently a staff em-

ployee of Seventh District Congressman Larry McDonald and is presumably carrying on from that august statesman's enclaves. It's bad enough to learn that this kind of activity is financed out of electric rates but to learn that tax money is paying for it is intolerable.

Personally, I feel a sort of perverse pride in having been the object of so much obviously expensive foolishness, not unlike the reactions many people must have felt upon learning that they were on Nixon's enemies list. To know that I have been that deep in the craws of people I dislike is satisfying.

But about otherwise uninvolved people who supported the Power Project as the best vehicle for opposing rate increases by the Power Company? How many names have been swept into this dragnet anyway?

The Power Company has "destroyed" its files on the subject by its own pronouncement. But what about the duplicate files that were used to create the Company's in the first place? What about the information that was circulated in the underground network? How extensive is that web?

Does it include police agencies other than the one in Texas that was exposed? Why won't the Atlanta Police Department release any information that it has about these matters? (A request for such files was denied by Capt. Howard Baugh of the Intelligence Division on November 12, 1974.)

The whole story of Power Company spying is yet to come out. One hopes the excellent story by Tom Baxter and Mike Christenson in the *Journal* will lead to appropriate action by regulatory bodies and affected citizens. I'll bet you get to hear about some subpoenas on this business yet. If you don't, you better think twice about badmouthing the Power Company.

—Neill Herring

### Film Forum Hopes Look Dim

On Friday, September 16, Fulton Superior Court Judge Charles Weltner rescinded a 60-day court order which was keeping the Film Forum open. As of this writing, the Film Forum, as it currently exists, will be open for the last time Tuesday, Sept. 20. The Ellises are looking for a new building.

The company, along with other electric utilities, has been touting the performance of some dinky little breeder (another experimental model) out west that was pressed into service this summer to provide power during the hydroelectric shortage in the Northwest. Comparing this plant to Clinch River is like comparing a lawnmower with a combine harvester but power companies have never troubled themselves over little details like that until they

and did succeed in stealing information although such efforts were of dubious value given the generally open nature of the organization and its offices.

One of their spies, a charming fellow named John Rees, has made a career of spying on people who advocate various changes in our society. He and his wife, Louise, publish *Information Digest* a "newsletter" that features items like license plate numbers from cars at some meeting that the Reeses deemed subversive. One of their reports placed me at a meeting in Texas, a spot I have yet to see. I once handed out leaflets to Georgia Power employees in the company of this Rees and was startled to learn who he actually was from a magazine article

Washington Post  
Nov. 7, 1977

## Ga. Utility Kept Files On Critics

By Bill Richards

Washington Post Staff Writer

ATLANTA — The Georgia Power Co., one of the nation's biggest electric utilities, ran a sophisticated intelligence-gathering operation here whose targets allegedly included Ralph Nader, environmental and consumer activists, the Georgia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the press.

Allegations of misuse of Georgia Power's security apparatus, which included a nine-member intelligence-gathering unit, have touched off an investigation by the Georgia Public Service Commission and threats of lawsuits from several persons allegedly included in Georgia Power's intelligence files.

According to allegations by former senior members of the utility's investigative unit and copies of documents made available to The Washington Post, Georgia Power covertly gathered intelligence on persons and groups believed to be opponents of the company beginning in 1972.

Company records indicate that security officers conducted a three-day "background investigation" into a Nader group. While company security officials denied last week that any such investigation took place, two former members of the Georgia Power investigative unit said they recalled that a company investigator was sent to Washington to attend a Nader-sponsored conference.

Other entries into the security unit's monthly case log, a portion of which was among copies of documents made available to The Post last week, showed similar requests for investigations of "news media" and others apparently outside the normal scope of the company's operations.

Former company security officers who were part of the investigative section told The Post that among the names included in Georgia Power's investigative files were one of the state's leading consumer attorneys, the head of the state ACLU chapter and several persons who opposed construction of a Georgia Power nuclear plant.

According to the former security officials and Georgia Power records on file here with the Federal Power Commission, the utility also maintained links with shadowy private intelligence-gathering organizations in Washington and on the West Coast.

See GEORGIA, A17, Col. 1

## GEORGIA, From A1

The extent of the Georgia Power intelligence operation was first made public by The Atlanta Journal in September. After the Journal article appeared, Georgia Power Vice President George W. Edwards denied in a letter to the paper that his company had ever engaged in "spying on innocent private citizens."

In an interview at the utility's corporate headquarters here last week Georgia Power officials said no secret intelligence gathering is now under way by the company except for files on persons who made threats against Georgia Power employees or company property.

But a company spokesman acknowledged that files on non-criminal opponents of the utility may have been opened by the Georgia Power security unit "for a few days" in the past.

Terry Leedom, a spokesman for Georgia Power, said the opening of files on persons normally outside the range of company security interest may have been considered necessary during the "years of turbulence." Leedom described this period as ranging from the late 1960s through the early 1970s. He said any such files would have been destroyed some time ago.

However, Leedom confirmed reports to The Post by other informed sources that on the evening of the appearance of the Journal article Georgia Power security officials and a company attorney spent 12 hours combing through the security files and that a number of documents were removed.

Arthur Benson, head of Georgia Power's security office, denied that any of the documents removed from the files had been destroyed and said all of the papers were eventually returned to the security office. Benson acknowledged, however, that no record was made of which files were taken and the only way he could tell they were all back was that "I haven't found anything missing."

Georgia Power has declined requests from reporters to be allowed to examine the security files. The company has also refused to make available copies of the security depart-

ment's monthly investigative case logs which show what types of investigations were done.

A copy of the index of file categories, which was maintained by the Georgia Power security office, was made available to The Post. The index shows that Georgia Power investigators looked into a number of standard criminal areas such as thefts from the company.

The index contains several broad categories under the headings of "miscellaneous" and "management request for investigation outside Georgia Power." It was in these categories, according to former security unit investigators, that covert intelligence gathering was conducted on persons and groups believed to be opponents of the company.

John H. Taylor, a former senior member of the Georgia Power security staff, said the files were keyed into a set of index cards in which individuals and organizations were listed. Among the names in the files, he said, were persons who had opposed the utility's requests for rate increases.

In a sworn deposition given in September Taylor said the scope of the utility's investigations was extremely wide. "Any management person could request an investigation and, normally, the investigation would be performed," Taylor said.

Taylor said in the deposition that one senior Georgia Power management official had requested a number of investigations on individuals not connected with Georgia Power.

Company security department case logs show that the utility official made one request in August, 1973, of "news media." The case files do not identify which organization or person was the subject of the request or whether it was carried out.

A separate management request for an "individual investigation" is listed on the case logs under the category "open-s." Taylor said this category—which is not among those on the security department's file index—referred to special investigations of persons company officials considered "subversives."

Taylor called Georgia Power's security files "a dirt-gathering operation."

Taylor was fired by the company several days after he gave his deposition. A company spokesman said Taylor was fired because of "a lack of enthusiasm and interest" and because he compromised security procedures in the deposition.

William Lovin, another former member of the utility's investigative unit, said in an interview last week that the company's investigators were equipped with a number of expensive devices such as secret beepers which could be planted on cars to be tailed, night photography equipment and company cars equipped with switches to alter headlight and taillight configuration for night tailing.

In addition Lovin, a former Army intelligence specialist, said he was shown equipment purchased by Georgia Power to tap telephones and bug rooms. Lovin said he never saw the equipment used. Company officials last week denied ever having such equipment, which is illegal here.

Georgia Power investigators were so well equipped, said Lovin, that local FBI agents once complained that the utility was way ahead of them in its surveillance ability.

Lovin was also fired by Georgia Power. Company officials said he was fired after conducting "an unauthorized surveillance." Lovin said the firing was because he shadowed a company official suspected of stealing Georgia Power equipment.

Lovin, who now lives in Macon, said in an interview that as a Georgia Power investigator he had access to police information. "I'd give a sheriff a list of names and he'd tell me if there was anything on them anywhere, no matter who they were," he said.

Federal Power Commission records also show that Georgia Power paid \$4,770 last year to buy information from an Oakland, Calif., private detective agency known as Research West. Utility officials said they were referred to Research West several years ago by officials of the Pacific Gas and Electric Co., a West Coast utility. Georgia Power used the agency to supply information on prospective employees, according to its security officials.

Research West has been publicly identified as specializing in providing

information on various left-wing groups and individuals. One person who has apparently supplied Research West with information is Jerome Ducote, an admitted burglar.

In a telephone interview last week Ducote admitted burglarizing 17 offices of such organizations as the United Farm Workers, Ramparts magazine and the late radical Chicago community organizer, Saul Alinsky, during the 1960s. Information from the burglaries—the statute of limitations has expired on all of them—was supplied to Research West's predecessor, called Western Research, according to Ducote.

Ducote, who is writing a book on his thefts called "The Good Thief," said Western Research supplied a number of corporate clients with information on suspected "subversives."

The agency has no telephone listing, and Research West officials could not be reached to determine if Western Research knew it was getting stolen information from Ducote.

Georgia Power investigators have also collected information for the utility's security files from John H. Rees, publisher of a small newsletter called Information Digest. The newsletter supplies a handful of subscribers—mainly police departments—with information on alleged radical groups, including Georgia Power opponents.

Georgia Power security director Benson last week called Rees an old personal friend, and said he had received information from Rees after Rees attended meetings of Georgia Power opponents in Atlanta. Rees said he had attended as a reporter for his newsletter. Benson also said names and information from Rees' Information Digest had been entered into Georgia Power's security files.

Rees declined to say whether he had been paid by Georgia Power. Benson, said, however, that Rees had been given use of a company van as "a personal favor" to return to Washington after his Atlanta trip.

A New York state legislative report has charged that Rees' newsletter contains "raw, unevaluated, editorialized and frequently derogatory information." The report said the newsletter's information was being used to "develop dossiers on thousands of patriotic and decent Americans."



# The Atlanta Journal

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Vol. 95, No. 140

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## Ga. Power Has Files on Foes

By TOM BAXTER  
And MIKE CHRISTENSEN

The Georgia Power Co. security department has investigated and kept files on private citizens and groups considered opponents of utility interests.

While not admitting the existence of such files, Georgia Power officials, on the advice of attorneys, have refused to release the contents of files logged on monthly case reports obtained by The Atlanta Journal.

According to sources familiar with the operation, the security department's investigative section started files on individuals and groups considered "subversive" to the publicly regulated utility's interests less than a month after the department was formed in June 1973.

Some of the information was gathered through private and questionable national intelligence sources, The Journal has learned.

"We . . . don't run a Gestapo," said Georgia Power President Robert W. Scherer in an interview. He declined to say whether the files might be opened to anyone about whom derogatory information may have been collected.

The Journal also has obtained a copy of a letter which raises questions about Georgia Power's statements regarding a compli-

'We . . . don't run a Gestapo,' says Georgia Power President Robert W. Scherer. But the utility's files on individuals and groups considered 'subversive' to the publicly regulated utility's interests reportedly contain information gathered through private and questionable national intelligence sources.

cated and controversial theft case at the company's Edwin I. Hatch nuclear plant near Baxley.

And, sources say, the security department has handled private investigations for its corporate officials. In one instance, which the company has admitted, a futile search was made by four men on foot and by rented helicopter for Southern Co. President Alvin W. Vogtle's missing dogs. (Southern is the parent company of Georgia Power.)

Commenting on the security department's search for the dogs, Scherer said: "I think their motives were good. I think the reaction was stupid."

"It was like any new department trying to justify its existence," one former Georgia Power investigator said of the department, "and that always leads to excess."

Georgia Power created the security de-

partment four years ago out of concern with widespread thefts and new federal rules on nuclear power plant safeguards. Claims department lawyer J. Wyman Lamb, who had done a report on the need for such a department, was picked to run it.

Lamb's department soon split into uniformed guards, for plant sites, and a plain-clothes section. Lamb kept his headquarters in Atlanta with the investigators, veterans of such agencies as Army intelligence, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Housed in two unmarked suites in a corner of the LaVista Perimeter Office Park, near DeKalb County's Northlake Mall, the plain-clothes section now has nine investigators, a budget surpassing \$750,000 and equipment described by some as equal to or

better than that used by any police detective unit in the state.

Each investigator, it is said, receives a company car (painted to disguise its identity), a pistol, a shotgun, radios and a camera. The section has sophisticated camera equipment (including a night-time photography telescope), fingerprint kits, drug analysis kits and a videotape unit.

The department has defended its use of such equipment, including changeable headlights and taillights on their cars, saying it was necessary in certain investigations.

(At the flip of a switch, an investigator who is tailing someone or who feels he is being tailed can alter the configuration of his car lights, thus confusing the other party.)

Backed by such equipment, the investigators started building cases on routine matters — thefts of copper, shots fired at transformers and the like.

While the security department was taking hold inside Georgia Power, new forces were gathering outside the corporate gates.

Three months before the security department was formed, the Georgia Power

Turn to Page 8A, Column 1



The Associated Press

**MAYOR BEAME BITES BACK DISAPPOINTMENT**  
He Finished Third in NYC Primary—Page 5A

Inside Today

Georgia Si,  
Tech No

South Carolina will





# Ga. Power Unit Said to Go Undercover for Information

Continued from Page 1A

Project, an anti-utility group with self-avowed socialist leanings, hosted as "Energy Crisis Convention" in Atlanta. A secret report on the convention by a Texas police investigator was circulated to law enforcement agencies and private security departments across the nation.

By the spring of 1974, when protesters appeared before the Georgia Power Building at 270 Peachtree St. in one of a series of marches on the company, security investigators were waiting at office windows to extensively photograph their activities.

Roger Allen Grigg, who worked for a local film processing company, recalls staying up all night after one of those marches to handle a rush order from the Georgia Power Co.

Grigg says he was told to make a print of every frame on the six or seven rolls of film. "What really made it humorous is it was the same group of people walking around in a circle in every shot," he says.

During one march, according to a person who took part in the photographing, employees of the Georgia Power lands department were moved out of their offices in the Coastal States Building, which adjoins the 270 Building, and a bank of cameras was moved in.

According to two sources, investigators looked out over the crowd, picking out individual protesters they wanted

that he had information the Revolutionary Union was a left-wing, militant organization which aimed to take over the nation by infiltrating industry and utility companies.

According to sources familiar with this aspect of the section's activities, investigators also went undercover to gather information on dissidents.

Neill Herring, one of the prime movers in the Georgia Power Project, recalls discussing the utility over beers at a North Highland Avenue tavern with a man who described himself as a short-order fry cook just out of the Army. In the discussion, which followed an evening rate increase hearing, the man criticized Georgia Power policy.

Herring said he later recognized the man at a Georgia Power function and discovered he was Art Benson.

Benson confirms the meeting with Herring, but denies he assumed a false identity. "He never asked (who Benson was) and I never volunteered."

Information gathered through these and other methods, sources say, was kept in cross-indexed files.

The lists of cases in the monthly reports obtained by The Journal show the section carried out investigations under several headings, including "Management Request for Investigation Outside GPC," "Miscellaneous" and "Open-S," which a source said was the most sensitive

*Each of the Georgia Power unit's investigators is said to receive a disguised company car, a pistol, a shotgun, radios and a camera. The section has sophisticated camera lenses, fingerprint kits, drug analysis kits, a videotape unit and equipment such as changeable auto headlights and taillights.*

be kept on a group such as the Ralph Nader Congress Project, Lamb said simply, "Information."

According to the case lists obtained by The Journal, on July 23, 1973, Benson was given two management requests for investigations of "news media" and an unnamed "individual." The cases were closed Aug. 6, 1973, two weeks later.

On Aug. 8, Benson was assigned another "individual investigation" under the heading "Open-S." No closing date was shown on the lists.

Benson said he did not recall any of these investigations.

One term used in discussing those who drew attention from the department, according to two sources, was "subversive." A subversive, according to one of them, was "anyone who spoke out against Georgia Power."

Sources stressed that other

Power Project in the Congressional Record.

The New York State Assembly's Office of Legislative Oversight and Analysis has concluded that Rees' publication is filled with "raw, unevaluated, editorialized and frequently derogatory information" used by its subscribers to "develop dossiers on thousands of patriotic and decent Americans."

The Georgia Power security department, according to sources familiar with its operations, not only received Information Digest but helped subsidize Rees' activities.

These sources say Rees traveled to Georgia in late 1973 or early 1974 and returned to Washington in a freshly painted van, supplied by the power company.

A Washington area source who was close to Rees has told The Journal Rees did make a trip to Georgia about this time to pick up a van.

come a center of controversy since they were brought to light this summer in the New York legislative report.

"The 'agents' of Information Digest have lived strange fantasy lives," that report stated. "The fact that the information they supplied on innocent civilians was treated with interest seems inconceivable in retrospect."

A similar controversy has been stirred on the West Coast over a firm formerly known as Western Research and now called Research West, Inc.

A Californian named Jerry Ducote admitted — after the criminal statute of limitations pertinent to his activities ran out — that he performed 17 break-ins at offices of liberal leaders such as Cesar Chavez in the mid-1960s, obtaining information which was funneled into Western Research's files.

Ducote told The Journal the firm exists to provide clients with information on "leftists."

"If you had signed an ad to stop the war in Vietnam, then your name would be in those files," he explained. "If you signed three ads, you would be described in the files as a leftist."

Research West was used by Georgia Power security investigators, a source said, to check on opponents of the company whom "they didn't have a handle on," in addition to prospective employees at the Hatch nuclear plant.

Lamb, who described Research West as a "news clipping service," said the West Coast firm was used to check

position to Southern's purchase of South African coal, Georgia Power security investigators carefully screened entrance to the site.

On the other hand, according to well-placed sources, security personnel arranged and paid for a motel room for the Rev. Lester Kinsolving, a well-known conservative who spoke at the meeting as a shareholder in opposition to the dissidents' position.

Kinsolving later admitted to The Washington Post that his stock for this and several other corporate meetings

around the nation was purchased for him by a South African interest group working through a Washington law firm.

Asked by The Journal to comment on the report that his tab at the Mandalay Motel in Lyons was picked up by Georgia Power, Kinsolving said, "I really don't remember. I think maybe it was."

Both Lamb and Benson denied any knowledge of Kinsolving's motel arrangements or his bill.

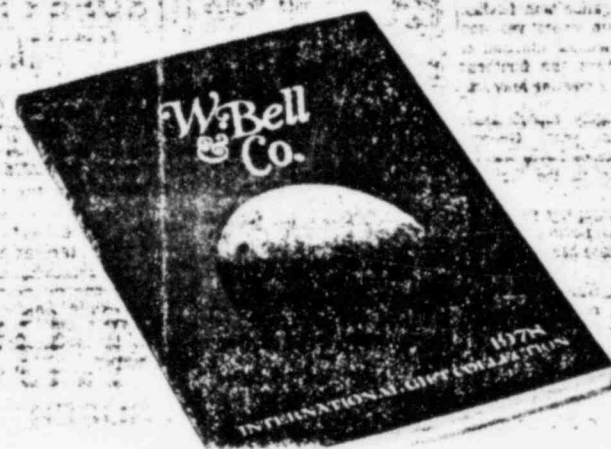
Plant Hatch has been a sore subject with Georgia Power

ever since last December, when William Lovin, fired from the security department, told a state Senate subcom-

Continued on Page 5A

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Grigg says he was told to make a print of every frame on the six or seven rolls of film. "What really made it humorous is it was the same group of people walking around in a circle in every shot," he says.

During one march, according to a person who took part in the photographing, employees of the Georgia Power lands department were moved out of their offices in the Coastal States Building, which adjoins the 270 Building, and a bank of cameras was moved in.

According to two sources, investigators looked out over the crowd, picking out individual protesters they wanted photographed with telephoto lens.

Lamb and Art Benson, the chief of the investigative section, have admitted photographing protesters in front of the 270 Building but say there was nothing secretive in their actions. According to Lamb, protesters even waved at the photographers.

But The Journal's sources say the Coastal States building was picked as a camera site because its copper-tinted windows obscure visibility from the outside.

In at least one instance, this kind of surveillance was carried out in conjunction with a law enforcement agency.

Benson, according to depositions he and others filed in connection with a Georgia Power Project lawsuit, invited himself along with a DeKalb County policeman who was going to monitor a meeting of the Revolutionary Union at Emory University.

Benson said in a deposition.

Power function and discovered he was Art Benson.

Benson confirms the meeting with Herring, but denies he assumed a false identity: "He never asked (who Benson was) and I never volunteered."

Information gathered through these and other methods, sources say, was kept in cross-indexed files.

The lists of cases in the monthly reports obtained by The Journal show the section carried out investigations under several headings, including "Management Request for Investigation Outside GPC," "Miscellaneous" and "Open-S," which a source said was the most sensitive classification.

The targets of these investigations, according to the case lists, ranged from the "Ralph Nader Congress Project" and the "Interpeace Organization," to "the news media."

One "Open-S" investigation was directed at an unnamed "individual."

Sources say the files also included such persons as Gene Guerrero, now the director of the Georgia American Civil Liberties Union and once active in the Georgia Power Project.

The investigators even processed into the files names from a membership list of the John Birch Society, according to one source: "That was just for the sake of having files," the source said. "It looked good."

In a lengthy interview, Lamb said the only noncriminal case files his department keeps contain "nothing other than maybe something with a newspaper clipping in it."

Asked why any files would

requests for investigations of "news media" and an unnamed "individual." The cases were closed Aug. 6, 1973, two weeks later.

On Aug. 8, Benson was assigned another "individual investigation" under the heading "Open-S." No closing date was shown on the lists.

Benson said he did not recall any of these investigations.

One term used in discussing those who drew attention from the department, according to two sources, was "subversive." A subversive, according to one of them, was "anyone who spoke out against Georgia Power."

Sources stressed that other security forces hold similar attitudes and that a national network exists to circulate secret information on so-called dissidents.

One link in that network is a publication called Information Digest, which as early as Nov. 3, 1972, reported that "the Georgia Power Company has come under attack from a small, active coalition of radicals operating under the name, Georgia Power Project." The report on the Georgia Power Project's internal affairs was labeled "sensitive."

Information Digest is put out by a Washington-based man named John Rees, also known as John O'Connor and Father John Seely.

Rees, a bearded, portly, right-wing figure, has operated undercover with his wife Louise for several years, spying on left-wing groups. Louise Rees now works for 7th District U.S. Rep. Larry McDonald, who has inserted information about the Georgia

frequently derogatory information" used by its subscribers to "develop dossiers on thousands of patriotic and decent Americans . . ."

The Georgia Power security department, according to sources familiar with its operations, not only received Information Digest but helped subsidize Rees' activities.

These sources say Rees traveled to Georgia in late 1973 or early 1974 and returned to Washington in a freshly painted van supplied by the power company.

A Washington area source who was close to Rees has told The Journal Rees did make a trip to Georgia about this time to pick up a van.

The van, according to sources in Atlanta, later was retrieved by a Georgia Power investigator, who had a flat tire on the way home.

The Washington area source also told The Journal that Rees at one time gave a friend a telephone credit card number which he said was that of Georgia Power.

An Atlanta source who knew of the security department's dealings with Rees said there was a discussion within the department about supplying Rees with credit cards.

While Rees operated primarily from Washington, three persons associated with the Georgia Power Project have identified him by photograph as having taken part in Project activities in Atlanta, including passing out anticompany leaflets at a Georgia Power substation.

Although Benson said he has known Rees personally for nine years, both he and Lamb denied the department ever supplied him with a van or credit card or subsidized him in any way.

Benson said Rees has been a guest at his home and both he and Lamb have personally received Information Digest through the mail.

Lamb said he could not recall

Ducote told The Journal the firm exists to provide clients with information on "leftists." "If you had signed an ad to stop the war in Vietnam, then your name would be in those files," he explained. "If you signed three ads, you would be described in the files as a leftist."

Research West was used by Georgia Power security investigators, a source said, to check on opponents of the company whom "they didn't have a handle on," in addition to prospective employees at the Hatch nuclear plant.

Lamb, who described Research West as a "news clipping service," said the West Coast firm was used to check out the first group of Hatch job applicants. "We felt like they couldn't do us any service, so we didn't use them for that purpose any longer."

Lamb did say, however, that his department has used Research West to gather background information on dissidents thought to be in Atlanta.

"I remember one time there was a problem here with a group called the October League (a leftist organization), and we had some conversations with them (Research West) about that," Lamb said. "Some of the people involved here in Atlanta had a history in California or had come from California. And it turned out the October League didn't bother our company."

Asked if his investigators had sought information on individuals within such groups, Lamb said, "Yes, if any of them were in Atlanta, we did."

Research West, he said, had been recommended to Georgia Power investigators by the security department of a West Coast utility.

"I have tried to set a tone within this business that we're going to be open and direct and forthright," said Georgia Power President Scherer dur-



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ing the utility over beers  
at a North Highland Avenue  
tavern with a man who de-  
scribed himself as a short-  
order fry cook just out of the  
Army. In the discussion,  
which followed an evening  
rate increase hearing, the  
man criticized Georgia Power  
policy.

Herring said he later recog-  
nized the man at a Georgia  
Power function and discov-  
ered he was Art Benson.  
Benson confirms the meet-  
ing with Herring, but denies  
he assumed a false identity.  
"He never asked (who Benson  
was) and I never volun-  
teered."

Information gathered  
through these and other meth-  
ods, sources say, was kept in  
cross-indexed files.  
The lists of cases in the  
monthly reports obtained by  
The Journal show the section  
carried out investigations  
under several headings, in-  
cluding "Management Re-  
quest for Investigation Out-  
side GPC," "Miscellaneous"  
and "Open-S," which a source  
said was the most sensitive  
classification.

The targets of these investi-  
gations, according to the case  
lists, ranged from the "Ralph  
Nader Congress Project" and  
the "Interpeace Organiza-  
tion," to "the news media."

One "Open-S" investigation  
was directed at an unnamed  
"individual."

Sources say the files also  
included such persons as Gene  
Guerrero, now the director of  
the Georgia American Civil  
Liberties Union and once ac-  
tive in the Georgia Power  
Project.

The investigators even  
processed into the files names  
from a membership list of the  
John Birch Society, according  
to one source. "That was just  
for the sake of having files,"  
the source said. "It looked  
good."

In a lengthy interview,  
Lamb said the only noncrimi-  
nal case files his department  
keeps contain "nothing other  
than maybe something with a  
newspaper clipping in it."

Asked why any files would

be kept on a group such as the  
Ralph Nader Congress Pro-  
ject, Lamb said simply,  
"Information."

According to the case lists  
obtained by The Journal, on  
July 23, 1973, Benson was  
given two management re-  
quests for investigations of  
"news media" and an un-  
named "individual." The cases  
were closed Aug. 6, 1973, two  
weeks later.

On Aug. 8, Benson was as-  
signed another "individual  
investigation" under the head-  
ing "Open-S." No closing date  
was shown on the lists.

Benson said he did not re-  
call any of these investiga-  
tions.

One term used in discussing  
those who drew attention  
from the department, accord-  
ing to two sources, was "sub-  
versive." A subversive, ac-  
cording to one of them, was  
"anyone who spoke out  
against Georgia Power."

Sources stressed that other  
security forces hold similar  
attitudes and that a national  
network exists to circulate se-  
cret information on so-called  
dissidents.

One link in that network is  
a publication called Informa-  
tion Digest, which as early as  
Nov. 3, 1972, reported that  
"the Georgia Power Company  
has come under attack from a  
small, active coalition of rad-  
icals operating under the  
name, Georgia Power Pro-  
ject." The report on the Geor-  
gia Power Project's internal  
affairs was labeled "sensi-  
tive."

Information Digest is put  
out by a Washington-based  
man named John Rees, also  
known as John O'Connor and  
Father John Seeley.

Rees, a bearded, portly,  
right-wing figure, has op-  
erated undercover with his wife  
Louise for several years,  
spying on left-wing groups.  
Louise Rees now works for  
7th District U.S. Rep. Larry  
McDonald, who has inserted  
information about the Georgia

Power Project in the Congres-  
sional Record.

The New York State  
Assembly's Office of Legisla-  
tive Oversight and Analysis  
has concluded that Rees' pub-  
lication is filled with "raw,  
unevaluated, editorialized and  
frequently derogatory infor-  
mation" used by its subscrib-  
ers to "develop dossiers on  
thousands of patriotic and de-  
cent Americans . . ."

The Georgia Power security  
department, according to  
sources familiar with its  
operations, not only received  
Information Digest but helped  
subsidize Rees' activities.

These sources say Rees  
traveled to Georgia in late  
1973 or early 1974 and re-  
turned to Washington in a  
freshly painted van supplied  
by the power company.

A Washington area source  
who was close to Rees has  
told The Journal Rees did  
make a trip to Georgia about  
this time to pick up a van.

The van, according to  
sources in Atlanta, later was  
retrieved by a Georgia Power  
investigator, who had a flat  
tire on the way home.

The Washington area source  
also told The Journal that  
Rees at one time gave a  
friend a telephone credit card  
number which he said was  
that of Georgia Power.

An Atlanta source who  
knew of the security depart-  
ment's dealings with Rees  
said there was a discussion  
within the department about  
supplying Rees with credit  
cards.

While Rees operated pri-  
marily from Washington,  
three persons associated with  
the Georgia Power Project  
have identified him by photo-  
graph as having taken part in  
Project activities in Atlanta:  
including passing out anti-com-  
pany leaflets at a Georgia  
Power substation.

Although Benson said he  
has known Rees personally  
for nine years, both he and  
Lamb denied the department  
ever supplied him with a van  
or credit card or subsidized  
him in any way.

Benson said Rees has been  
a guest at his home and both  
he and Lamb have personally  
received Information Digest  
through the mail.

Lamb said he could not re-  
call filing copies of Informa-  
tion Digest. But he said if  
information on the Georgia  
Power Project was contained  
in Rees' publication, it "prob-  
ably went into our files."

Rees, contacted by tele-  
phone through Rep. McDon-  
ald's office Thursday, would  
not confirm or deny that  
Georgia Power supplied him  
with a van or credit cards.  
Rees said he would not dis-  
cuss another company's af-  
fairs, "and I think it would be  
improper to either confirm or  
deny anything of that sort."

Rees said he and the Geor-  
gia Power investigators "have  
a mutuality of interest" in  
such groups as the Georgia  
Power Project, the National  
Lawyers Guild, the Southern  
Conference Education Fund  
and the October League be-  
cause, he said, these organiza-  
tions "have been antagonistic  
towards Georgia Power."

For that reason, Rees said,  
he has sent and continues to  
send copies of Information Di-  
gest to Benson.

Rees' activities have be-

A Californian named Jerry  
Ducote admitted — after the  
criminal statute of limitations  
pertinent to his activities ran  
out — that he performed 17  
break-ins at offices of liberal  
leaders such as Cesar Chavez  
in the mid-1960s, obtaining  
information which was fun-  
neled into Western Research's  
files.

Ducote told The Journal the  
firm exists to provide clients  
with information on "leftists."

"If you had signed an ad to  
stop the war in Vietnam, then  
your name would be in those  
files," he explained. "If you  
signed three ads, you would  
be described in the files as a  
leftist."

Research West was used by  
Georgia Power security inves-  
tigators, a source said, to  
check on opponents of the  
company whom "they didn't  
have a handle on," in addition  
to prospective employees at  
the Hatch nuclear plant.

Lamb, who described Re-  
search West as a "news clip-  
ping service," said the West  
Coast firm was used to check  
out the first group of Hatch  
job applicants. "We felt like  
they couldn't do us any ser-  
vice, so we didn't use them for  
that purpose any longer."

Lamb did say, however,  
that his department has used  
Research West to gather  
background information on  
dissidents thought to be in  
Atlanta.

"I remember one time  
there was a problem here  
with a group called the Oc-  
tober League (a leftist organ-  
ization), and we had some  
conversations with them (Re-  
search West) about that,"  
Lamb said. "Some of the peo-  
ple involved here in Atlanta  
had a history in California or  
had come from California.  
And it turned out the October  
League didn't bother our  
company."

Asked if his investigators  
had sought information on  
individuals within such  
groups, Lamb said, "Yes, if  
any of them were in Atlanta,  
we did."

Research West, he said, had  
been recommended to Geor-  
gia Power investigators by  
the security department of a  
West Coast utility.

"I have tried to set a tone  
within this business that we're  
going to be open and direct  
and forthright," said Georgia  
Power President Scherer dur-  
ing an interview in which The  
Journal presented information  
on Research West, Informa-  
tion Digest and the security  
department's files.

"If it is clearly established  
that an agency utilized illegal  
means to acquire information,  
then I would instruct the se-  
curity department not to use  
that agency," Scherer said.

When asked if Georgia  
Power had any obligation to  
make files available to the  
individuals about whom the  
information had been gath-  
ered, particularly if there was  
a possibility it was gathered  
through illegal means by an  
outside agency, Scherer said,  
"I don't know. I hadn't  
thought about it."

One of the occasions when  
there was a possibility of a  
confrontation between the  
utility and its opponents was  
the May 28, 1975, Southern  
Co. stockholders meeting at  
the Hatch nuclear plant.

Amid rumors that dissi-  
dents might try to use the  
meeting as a platform for op-

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Contest

## Utility Unit Aided Outside Operative?

Continued from Page 8A

mittee that the company had refused to pursue valid leads in a theft case at the atomic plant.

Lovin, while an investigator in the Atlanta office, had been sent on April 9, 1975, to conduct the probe of construction thefts at Hatch.

A month later, according to Lovin, he was ordered to shut down the case, with the exception of polygraph exams administered to two contract construction men on May 20. Lovin filed his investigative summary of the case on June 1.

Lovin since has charged that his superiors were afraid his investigation was leading to corporate executives and that they wanted the matter closed before the Southern stockholders meeting May 28.

In a lengthy report made public this year, Georgia Power contends Lovin was involved only in the "initial" phase of the Hatch investigation. The company says that, contrary to Lovin's charges, the Hatch case has never been closed.

However, The Journal has obtained a copy of a letter dated June 17, 1975, from J. Wyman Lamb to Executive Vice President Harold McKenzie regarding the Hatch case.

"This investigation, for all practical purposes, has been concluded," Lamb wrote. "For your information, I am enclosing an investigative summary of this matter. I am pleased that this investigation is concluded and that we were able to obtain restitution in the amount of \$155,000.00."

Scherer and Lamb said the letter pertained only to one aspect of that case and was simply an "update" for McKenzie. Lamb said the investigative summary attached was not the final summary of the entire case.

In addition to its investigations at plant sites, the department also has handled

private cases for corporate officials.

On one Monday morning last fall, according to sources, four investigators were sent to the Cherokee County estate of Southern Co. President Alvin W. Vogtle Jr. to search for his two expensive dogs which had been reported missing over the weekend.

Investigators spent nearly two days combing the estate and the surrounding countryside — at one point using a rented helicopter — without finding the dogs.

Lamb said the search was necessary because a Western utility had received threatening letters about one of its executives during the same period. Lamb said Vogtle's dogs were guard dogs, and it was felt their disappearance could have some connection with a possible extortion plot.

About two years before, the department played a role in tracking down a collection of guns and camera equipment stolen from the residence of Harold McKenzie.

According to Lamb, the department worked closely with police in tracing the case to a fence's house in Chattanooga because among the merchandise were a gun and camera supplied to McKenzie by the company.

In still another instance of corporate favors, according to three sources, several investigators, on instructions from superiors, posed as policemen and conducted a fake raid on a poker game at a company executive's home.

Scherer and Lamb admitted that the raid, dreamed up by the executive as a joke on his power company buddies — including Scherer — actually took place.

But they said the investigators did it on off-duty hours as volunteers. Benson said the investigators never actually posed as policemen because they were not asked for their identification.

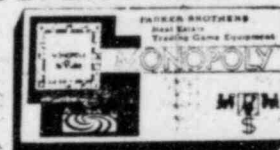
"I think it was a joke in bad taste, personally," Scherer said.

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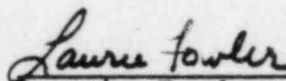
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of	)	Docket Nos. 50-424
	)	50-425
(Vogtle Electric Generating	)	
Plant, Units 1 and 2)	)	
	)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that copies of "Internors' Motion For A Protective Order In Opposition To Applicants' Motion To Compel Answers" and "Intervenors' Brief In Support Of Motion For Protective Order And Response To Applicants' Motion To Compel Answers" were served to all parties in this proceeding by deposit with the United States Postal Service in the City of Atlanta for delivery by first class mail this first day of April, 1985.

  
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Laurie Fowler

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
GEORGIA POWER COMPANY., <u>et al.</u>	)	Docket Nos. 50-424
	)	50-425
(Vogtle Electric Generating	)	
Plant, Units 1 and 2)	)	

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