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I have a concern . . .

By MORRIS L. ERNST

About once in a decade I have looked for a newly written book to give me correction or confirmation of opinions which bother me. About 50 years ago I recall the impress of James Harvey Robinson's "Mind in the Making." I had been confused between Barin and Mind. This book taught me that man, having once made a bit of mind could now make more and more of it. I have nourished that concept.

And now come Harry and Bonaro Overstreet, friends and distinguished authors, through Norton & Co., and bring me a much-needed volume—"The FBI in Our Society." It is a great book because with vibrant writing and calm facts it sets the record straight.

A few years after President Truman set up the Federal Employee Loyalty Program I wrote a piece for Reader's Digest entitled, "Why I No Longer Fear the FBI." As a kid I had been a friend of the local cops. Later I lived with fright through the Palmer deportation raids and then, as a fairly normal American, brought up in the avalanche of emigration by the millions — I feared that we, like the Communists, would become a police state.

From my research I learned that out of 2,873,180 federal employees examined by the FBI, all but 12,825 were promptly cleared, only 230 were dismissed and 163 of these were reinstated after appeals. And 1,474 did resign before their cases came up for hearing. The press had been filling me with lies.

These articles were not too popular with the Communists and fascists. These dictatorship groups then and now must try to make the FBI their prime target. In a world where the Communists oppose free speech, they must try to infiltrate the secret operations of our government. I am grateful that the FBI still continues to penetrate the local dictatorship groups.

The press and books have continued to spread canards and even lies about the FBI. *The Daily Worker*, Wechsler of the *Post*, the Klansmen, Cook of *The Nation*—one Turner, a severed FBI employee and others are treated by the Overstreets as they should be. These brash critics of the FBI are taken over the factual coals.

If you want to read a series of great detective stories read this book. I will not spoil your fun by telling the story of the FBI and the Mafia, or the Klan, or the Commies, or auto thieves, or the kidnapers.

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