

first Black mayor. In response, a diverse group of Black academics (John Bracy, Nathan Hare), activists (Carl Dix, James and Grace Lee Boggs, Chokwe Lumumba, Loretta Ross), attorneys (Conrad Lynn, Flo Kennedy), authors (James Baldwin, Toni Cade Bambara, Audre Lorde, Alice Walker), and others signed on to this advertisement, dubbed “Drawing the Line,” condemning the bombing and questioning the significance of electing Black officials to office as a goal in and of itself.

May 13, 1985, we witnessed the Black mayor of Philadelphia take responsibility for the bombing of a house in Philly and the ensuing fire in which eleven people (five of them children) were killed and sixty homes destroyed. Over the past fifteen years, we have witnessed significant increases in the number of Black elected officials. It is often said, and some of us signing this statement do in fact believe, that such increases represent advances in the struggle of Black people. But *all* of us agree on this basic truth: when Black people elected officials use their positions of power to attack Black people, or to cover up for or excuse such attacks, they are no friends of ours and don’t speak for or represent the interests of Black people. In the past, lines were clearly drawn on this question. This line must be firmly drawn again. Murder is murder, no matter whether those responsible are Black or white.

2.A.10.

Brian Glick

From War at Home: Covert Action against US Activists and What We Can Do about It (1989)

Even though revelation of the FBI’s counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) occasioned much shock and consternation in the early 1970s, police agencies managed to continue to surveil, harass, and arrest diverse social justice activists. In response civil rights attorney Brian Glick penned this short set of guidelines for how activists should respond to repression effected through the legal system (such as grand juries and police investigations), which he included in his book *War at Home*.

Guidelines for Coping with Harassment through the Legal System

1. Don’t talk to the FBI, and don’t let them in without a warrant. Keep careful records of what they say and do. Tell others that they came.
2. If an activist does talk or makes some other honest error, explain the serious harm that could result. Be firm, but do not ostracize a sincere person

who slips up. Isolation only weakens a person's ability to resist. It can drive someone out of the movement and even into the hands of the police.

3. If FBI or other government agents start to harass people in your area, alert everyone to refuse to cooperate. Warn your friends, neighbors, parents, children, and anyone else who might be contacted. Make sure people know what to do and where to call for help. Get literature, films, and other materials through the organizations listed in the back of this book. Set up community meetings with speakers who have resisted similar harassment elsewhere. Contact sympathetic reporters. Consider "wanted" posters with photos of the agents or guerrilla theater which follows them through the city streets.
4. Organizations listed in the back [of *War at Home*] can also help resist grand jury harassment. Community education is important, along with childcare and legal, financial, and other support for those who protect a movement by refusing to divulge information. If a respected activist is subpoenaed for obviously political reasons, consider trying to arrange for sanctuary in a local church or synagogue.
5. If your group engages in civil disobedience or finds itself under intense police pressure, start a bail fund, train some members to deal with the legal system, and develop an ongoing relationship with sympathetic local lawyers.
6. If you anticipate arrest, do not carry address books or any other materials which could help the FBI and police.
7. While the FBI and police are entirely capable of fabricating criminal charges, your nonpolitical law violations make it easier for them to set you up. Be careful with drugs, tax returns, traffic tickets, and so forth. The point is not to get paranoid but to make a realistic assessment based on your visibility and other relevant circumstances.
8. When an activist has to appear in court, make sure he or she is not alone. The presence of supporters is crucial for morale and can help influence jurors.
9. Don't neglect jailed activists. Organize visits, correspondence, books, food packages, childcare, etc. Keep publicizing their cases.
10. Publicize FBI and police abuses through sympathetic journalists and your own media (posters, leaflets, public access cable television, etc.). Don't let the government and corporate media be the only ones to shape public perceptions of FBI and police attacks on political activists.

If the FBI Drops by, *Just Say No!*

1. You do not have to talk to FBI agents, police, or other investigators. You do not have to talk to them in your house, on the street, if you've been arrested, or even in jail. Only a court or grand jury has legal authority to compel testimony.

2. You don't have to let the FBI or police into your home or office unless they show you an arrest or search warrant which authorizes them to enter that specific place.
3. If they do present a warrant, you do not have to tell them anything other than your name and address. You have a right to observe what they do. Make written notes, including the agents' names, agency, and badge numbers. Try to have other people present as witnesses and have them make written notes too.
4. Anything you say to an FBI agent or other law enforcement officer maybe used against you and other people.
5. Giving the FBI or police information may mean that you will have to testify to the same information at a trial or before a grand jury.
6. Lying to an FBI agent or other federal investigator is a crime.
7. The best advice, if the FBI or police try to question you or to enter your home or office without a warrant, is to *just say no*. FBI agents have a job to do, and they are highly skilled at it. Attempting to outwit them is very risky. You can never tell how a seemingly harmless bit of information can help them hurt you or someone else.
8. The FBI or police may threaten you with a grand jury subpoena if you don't give them information. But you may get one anyway, and anything you've already told them will be the basis for more detailed questioning under oath.
9. They may try to threaten or intimidate you by pretending to have information about you: "We know what you have been doing, but if you cooperate it will be all right." If you are concerned about this, tell them you will talk to them with your lawyer present.
10. If you are nervous about simply refusing to talk, you may find it easier to tell them to contact your lawyer. Once a lawyer is involved, the FBI and police usually pull back since they have lost their power to intimidate. (Make arrangements with sympathetic local lawyers and let everyone know that agents who visit them can be referred to these lawyers.) . . .

Not Letting Political Repression Divert Us from Building Strong Movements for Social Justice

Previous attempts to mobilize public opposition, especially on a local level, indicate that a broad coalition, employing a multifaceted approach, may be able to impose some limits on government operations to discredit and disrupt our movements. It is clear, however, that we are not now in a position to eliminate such intervention. While fighting hard to end this hidden war at home, we need to take the time to study the forms it takes and prepare ourselves to cope with it effectively.

Above all, it is essential that we resist the temptation to so preoccupy ourselves with repression that we neglect our main goals. Our ability to resist the

government's attacks depends ultimately on the strength of our movements. If we deal openly and well with our differences, covert action will not easily disrupt and divide us. If we show respect for the people we live and work with and help them to fight for their needs, it will be hard for the FBI and police to discredit and isolate us. We will be able, instead, to draw support from our neighbors and coworkers and expose the political police to them. So long as we advocate and organize effectively, no manner of government intervention can stop us.

2.A.11.

Labor/Community Strategy Center

From A Call to Reject the Federal Weed and Seed Program (1992)

Los Angeles was a particularly fierce battleground in the war on drugs. The Los Angeles Police Department led the nation in pursuing greater power and authority for police departments, and the city's partnerships with the federal government served as testing grounds for maximizing urban inequality in communities of color. Here, the Los Angeles-based Labor/Community Strategy Center, an urban think tank and organizing project, opposes such criminalization. This opposition was part of a national movement that argued the war on drugs was damaging the urban landscape.

Overview

The Urban Strategies Group of the Labor/Community Strategy Center urges the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Tom Bradley to withdraw their "in concept" support for the federal Weed and Seed program.

At present, the LA City Council has voted to designate two areas of Los Angeles—one in South Central and one in Pico Union/Koreatown—as pilot projects for the program. Weed and Seed is a program organized, coordinated, and initiated in 1991 by the Department of Justice that links together law enforcement, economic development, and social welfare programs in a supposed effort to "weed" out criminal elements as a precondition to "seeding" local programs with funding. Weed and Seed in reality would:

- preempt the possibility of police reform in Los Angeles.
- use federal laws and agencies to impose a "warfare" approach to urban problems.
- violate the civil rights and civil liberties of low-income communities that are predominantly African American, Latino, and Asian American.
- scapegoat rather than help a lost generation of urban youth.