

## HOLLYWOOD SAMIZDAT

For Immediate Release

LOS ANGELES. AUGUST 2, 1993. The FBI could neither confirm nor deny today that the Industry-Wide Leadership Conference on Violence in Television Programming has been conceived and planned by the Bureau as a major sting operation to result in the arrest and arraignment during the course of the Conference of numerous television executives and producers for corruption and racketeering under the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. Nor could the FBI verify that its planned round-up explained the purposeful exclusion of television's severest critics from the Conference. "The FBI has no interest in arresting the innocent," a law-agency source said.

Should reports of the FBI's intent prove correct, the operation would represent a major shift away from the widely-shared perception that the Clinton Administration intended the law-enforcement agency to primarily serve as an intimidation squad in service to television producer Harry Thomason's business interests. A well-placed anonymous source opined that "Clinton has determined that his embrace of some of Hollywood's worst gangland elements which he encouraged to 'write the future of America' is no longer politically viable. Hence today's expected FBI action."

The anonymous source, claiming intimate knowledge of the FBI's conception and preparation of the sting operation known as "Get the Bastards," explained that "the FBI's greatest worry was the possible lack of credibility which might greet an announcement for an all-day conference to ferret out the causes of violence and sleaze on television when any child knows that violent, sleazy, and sophomoric programming is the natural issue, the consistent harvest of individuals who are violent, sleazy, and sophomoric by nature." The source added that the FBI nonetheless accepted the plan since it would appeal to the television industry's governing character traits: self-importance and greed, since the conference would afford the invitees another occasion to sell to colleagues and attempt to defraud each other.

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"There isn't much the FBI can do to stem the flow of poison injected by television and film into the bloodstream of our society, and indeed of the world in spite of the French effort to create a 'cordon sanitaire' for the European Community," the source continued. "That's the FCC's role, but its sworn duty to protect the people's broadcast spectrum in recent years has grown insubstantial in direct proportion to the certitude of the FCC Commissioners that they have jobs waiting in the entertainment and communication industries after the discharge of their public obligation."

"The FBI can't do much about that," the source added, "but violation of law under the relevant antitrust, civil rights, and other criminal statutes, be it corrupt business practices, collusion, fraud, discrimination, and blacklisting, is another matter, and the industry's claim that it has historically received dispensation from such concerns, that indeed such dispensation has been bought and paid for, no longer holds."