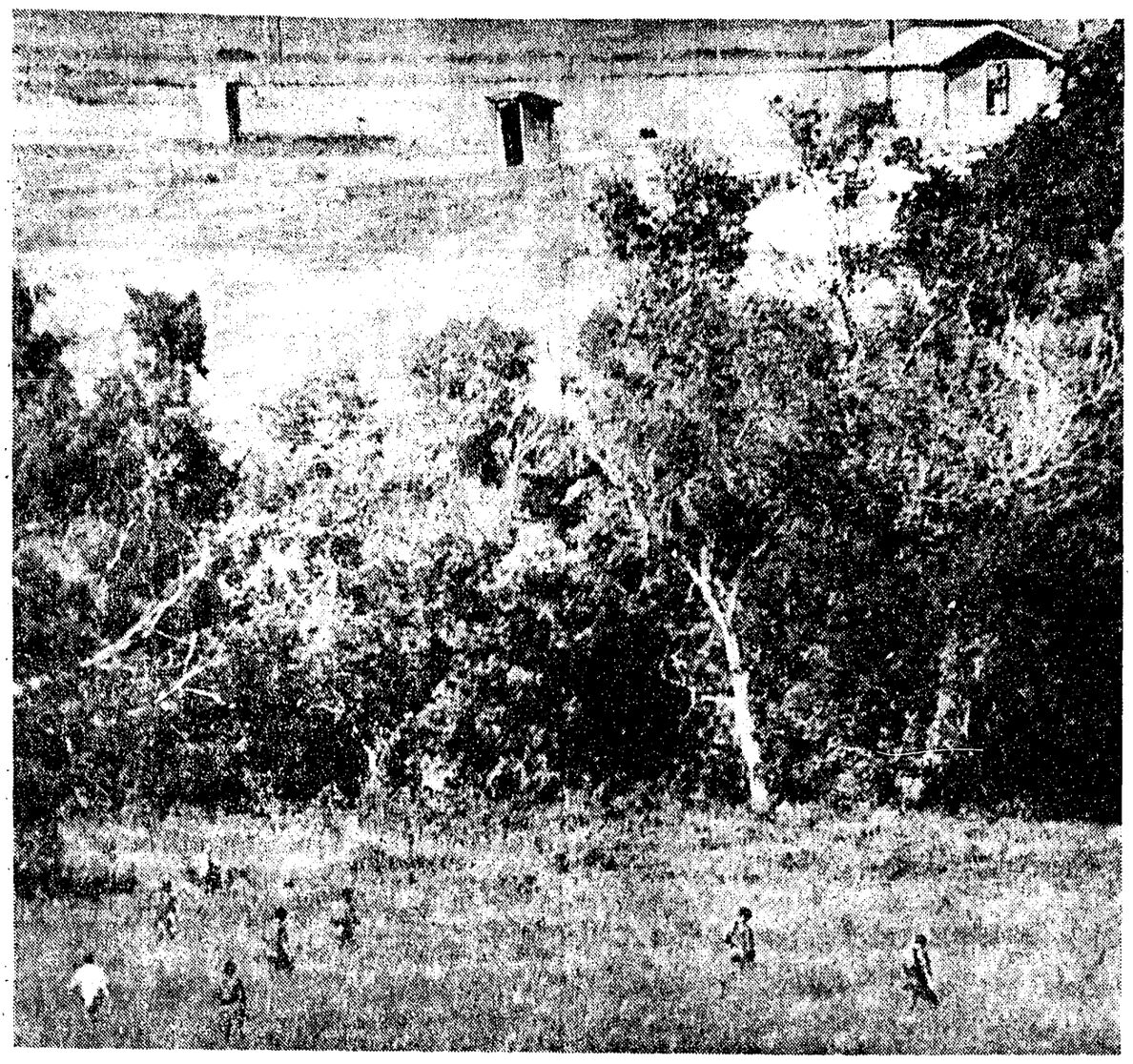


Associated Press

FBI agents, foreground, search field and wooded area on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for clues in the slaying of two agents. The agents were killed Thursday near the house at the upper right. An Indian also was killed.

2 Slain Men Sought 4 Indians in Dakota

Agents Didn't Hold Warrants

By Joel D. Weisman
Special to The Washington Post

PINE RIDGE, S.D., June 29—The two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents slain in a shootout Thursday at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation were not carrying arrest warrants, the FBI disclosed today.

FBI spokesman Tom Coll said warrants had been issued for the four men the agents were seeking at the time of the shootout in which an Indian also was killed, but the warrants were being held elsewhere.

Earlier the FBI here and at Washington, D.C., headquarters had stated the agents were at the shootout scene "to serve warrants."

Call said it is "common practice" for agents not to keep arrest warrants on their person. "All they need is probable cause that the person named in the warrant is at or in a given place before they can go in and arrest them," he said. Coll said he believed the arrest warrants were issued two days before the shootout.

Indians here and spokesmen for the American Indian Movement have charged that the agents were at the shootout scene to harass the Indians and had no legal right to be there.

They have argued that the same agents had been there several times before, never finding the suspects whose names were the warrants.

"The fact that the FBI now volunteers information that the agents had no warrants only bolsters our contention that they were there to harass Indians," said Kenneth Tilsen, a St. Paul, Minn., attorney for the Wounded Knee Offense-Defense Committee.

Coll conceded that he had previously implied that the agents had warrants in their possession and "that's why I wanted to correct it."

Coll also disclosed that the 16 to 20 persons sought in the shootout may not have all been involved in the slaying of the agents. "Some may merely be wanted on charges of assault" for firing at other FBI and Bureau of Indian Affairs agents in the ensuing gun battle, he said.

As law enforcement officials pressed the search for the suspects today, a petition demanding that heavily armed FBI agents leave the Oglala Sioux reservation immediately received strong local support at a rally near the shooting scene.

However, Coll said the FBI "had no intention of leaving the area until we finish our job."

Coll categorically denied five specific complaints in the petition, drawn up by Frank Starr, a member of the Sioux Tribal Council from White Clay.

The Indians charged FBI agents have:

• Invaded their privacy by frequent questioning and by searching private property without warrants.

• Privately spread statements like: "One more dead Indian, and we'll be even."

• Been frightening Indian children by creating "combat like" conditions through the display of rifles and handguns and the wearing of combat fatigues.

• Never protected, only harassed, the Sioux nation.

• Persisted in treating all Indians "as criminals" under a general attitude of harassment.

As the petition was circulated, various tribal leaders quietly sought outside help "to help change the tense combat atmosphere," said Gerald Onefeather, former president of the Tribal Council. "The FBI has been playing a very heavy role."

Kendall Cumming, acting superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the reservation, said he would try to convince the FBI to "assume a more modified posture," but Coll, in a press briefing moments earlier, had insisted the display of guns and other paramilitary equipment "is an absolute necessity."

As for the possible damaging psychological effects on young Indian children, Coll asserted: "I don't know what it was before, or what they saw before we got here, but we sure can't do our work in business suits."

Since Thursday afternoon, when agents Ronald A. Williams and Jack R. Coler, both 28 and both of Los Angeles, were killed, a steadily growing number of FBI agents have been combing the countryside of the picturesque 4,300-square-mile reservation. Some of the agents are based in offices as far away as New York.

Some 150 agents—the FBI refuses to list an exact number—have been joined periodically by an equal number of local law enforcement personnel and BIA police. They have been working in teams of five to 12 men. Some of the teams are of the so-called SWAT (Special Weapons Attack Team) variety.

Authorities said the Indian slain during the gun battle had been positively identified as Joseph Bedell Stuntz, 24, registered with the Lapwai Indian Agency in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Previously he had been tentatively identified as Joe Roberts, or Joe Killsright, of Seattle, where Stuntz reportedly once lived.

Officials also disclosed that both at the shootout Thursday and again Saturday they tried to negotiate for the safe surrender of the suspects.

Cumming said it was his decision—after waiting about 2½ hours Thursday—to order an assault on three cabins after the occupants, who had been shooting at government agents, refused to surrender.

As agents stormed the cabins, the occupants fled.

Details of Saturday's negotiating attempt were sketchy. Both Cumming and Coll said there were attempts "to avoid bloodshed and effect a safe surrender of the suspects."

Women's Caucus Elects D.C. Black Republican

By Jules Witcover
Washington Post Staff Writer

BOSTON, June 29—The National Women's Political Caucus today elected a 29-year-old black Republican from the District of Columbia, Audrey Rowe Colom, to chair the organization.

At the concluding session of the caucus's second national convention, Ms. Colom defeated Roxanne Conlin, a Democrat from Des Moines, and Delores Delahanty, a Louisville Democrat. She succeeds Frances (Sissy) Farenthold of Texas, who after more than two years in the job did not seek re-election.

The caucus expressed its appreciation for Ms. Farenthold's service, and its own aspirations for a woman in national office, in a resoluton urging that she be a candidate for Vice President. At the 1972 Democratic National Convention Ms. Farenthold finished second in the vice presidential balloting.

Ms. Colom, who works at the Children's Defense Fund of the Washington Research Project, said she would immediately address herself to the financial problems of the caucus. She said she would try to determine just how extensively the national organization could pursue broad goals laid out for it at this convention.

She said her first priority would be implementation of the caucus's strategy to press for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the four more states required. But, she said in an interview, "I don't want to leave here with the understanding we're going to implement a large program if it's not fiscally possible."

The caucus passed a resolution on ERA goals that estimated $213,500 would be needed for the effort. But Ms. Farenthold said the national organization's new dues structure, voted Saturday, will contribute little to this amount. The ERA money will have to be generated elsewhere, she said. The caucus also endorsed a pro-ERA fund-raising telethon to be held early next year.



United Press International

Audrey Rowe Colom of Washington, elected to chair the National Women's Political Caucus, is congratulated by outgoing Chairwoman Frances (Sissy) Farenthold.

The matter of financial backing for the caucus by its own members was the principal matter of controversy as the group completed its convention. The delegates rejected a proposal that members be assessed $10 a year for the national organization and instead agreed to $5 annual dues. Ms. Farenthold said this was an improvement but that the national caucus would continue to be plagued by money woes.

The money discussion reflected a continuing rift between local and state women's caucuses and the national organization over the national caucus's authority and focus. Ms. Colom said the new stress on electing state and local officials who back ERA rather than on electing supportive members of Congress reflected a desire to give greater local and state emphasis to caucus activities.

The national caucus treasurer, Betty King, withdrew as a candidate for re-election after the new dues structure was voted, saying she could not support it.

The new head of the national caucus, Ms. Colom, said she believes that as a Republican she had been elected in a conscious effort by other members of the caucus, predominantly Democrats, to underline the bipartisan nature of the organization and to attract Republicans.

Republican National Chairman Mary Louise Smith spoke to the caucus after Ms. Colom's election and praised the choice. The national caucus elected five women to the position of vice chair. Vivian Hall, a Democrat from California; Rhea Hammer, a Democrat from Illinios; Lee Novick, a Democrat from Connecticut; Anita Nelam, a Democrat from Kentucky, and Betsy Griffith, a Republican from the District of Columbia. Ann Tulley of Boston was elected treasurer.

The caucus also backed a legislative program estimated to cost $75,000, and endorsed the U.S. National Women's Agenda, a comprehensive list of women's movement goals compiled with the assistance of more than 75 national organizations.

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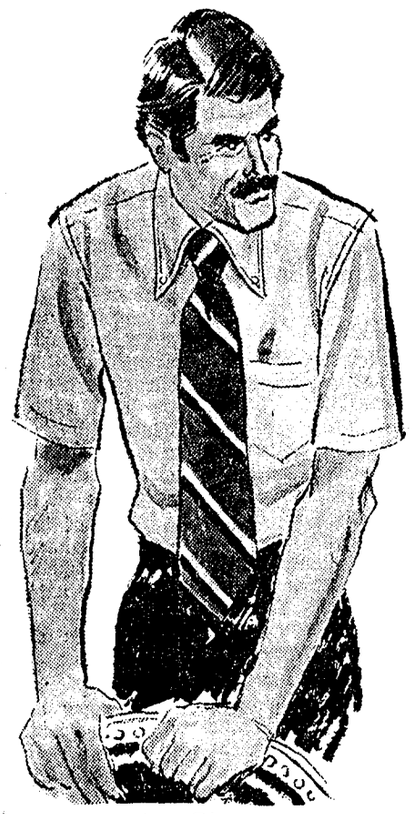
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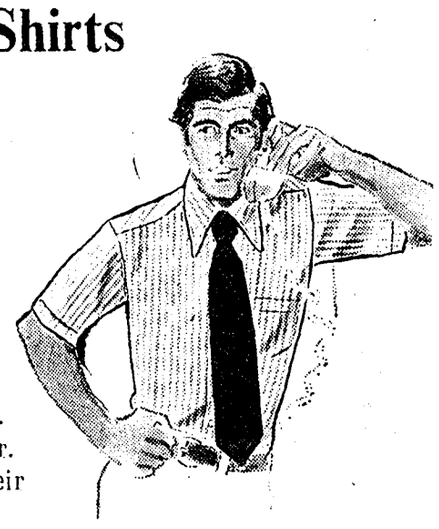
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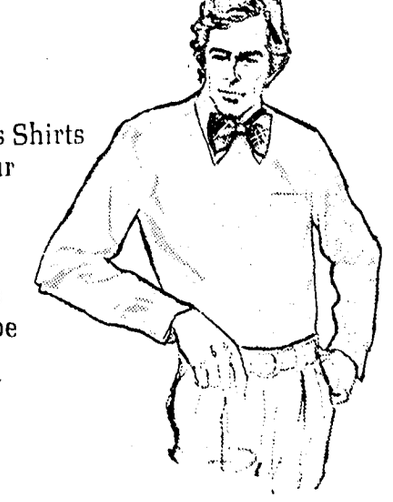
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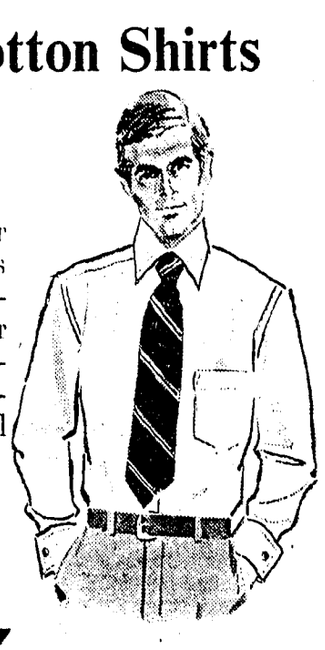
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