

Files reveal FBI investigated private life of Hudson

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation compiled reports on Rock Hudson's homosexuality during his lifetime and apparently was concerned he might play an FBI agent in several movies, according to recently released files.

Although the late film star never was the subject of a criminal investigation, several FBI offices gathered information about his private life from informants as far back as 1960.

Later that decade, items in Hol-



Rock Hudson

lywood newspapers touting Hudson as a celluloid G-man twice prompted investigations by the FBI's Los Angeles office. One probe lasted almost three months, ending when agents determined that Hudson's role would be that of a New York City police officer.

Hudson, 59, once one of Hollywood's leading actors, died Oct. 2, 1985, in Los Angeles of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Reports last summer that he had developed the incurable illness prompted for the first time numerous published reports that he was homosexual.

The Dallas Times Herald obtained Hudson's file from the FBI through a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Twenty pages, some of them heavily censored, were provided. Fourteen pages were withheld, 13 on grounds they were classified "in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy."

FBI spokesman Bill Carter declined to answer questions about the reasons the agency kept track of Hudson. "The release (of documents) speaks for itself," he said. Other FBI officials have said such non-criminal recordkeeping was discontinued in 1975 after a series of critical congressional hearings.

The released information concerning Hudson was gathered during J. Edgar Hoover's long tenure as FBI director. After his death in 1972, it was revealed that the agency for decades kept files on political dissenters and prominent figures not suspected of crimes.

The earliest mention in available FBI files about Hudson's personal life appears in a memo Feb. 13, 1960, memo to Hoover from the head of the FBI's Los Angeles office concerning various events in that area. Under the subhead "Hollywood Vice," an unidentified FBI agent wrote that local police had seized some files during a raid and that the files contained information about the sexual activities of Hudson and other "prominent individuals."

Other names, and any description of the nature of the sexual activities involved, were deleted in the documents given the Times Herald.

In fall 1966, a personal secretary to President Lyndon B. Johnson requested that a number of people, including Hudson, be checked through FBI files. On Oct. 23, the FBI sent the White House a one-page dossier.

"Rock Hudson has not been the subject of an FBI investigation," the memo said. "During 1965, however, a confidential informant reported that several years ago while he was in New York he had an 'affair' with movie star Rock Hudson. The informant stated that from personal belief he knew that Rock Hudson was a homosexual."

The FBI files provided the Times Herald detail the bureau's continuing interest in the only two instances during Hudson's 35-year

film career that he was touted to play an FBI agent.

One involved the movie "A Fine Pair," co-starring Claudia Cardinale and filmed in 1967 in Italy. On Sept. 8, 1967, a day after a Hollywood newspaper reported Hudson was set to portray a special agent, the Los Angeles FBI office sent the first of four memos to Hoover detailing efforts to determine if that report was accurate.

Finally, on Nov. 28, 1967, the of-

fice informed [redacted] Hudson's role was "that of a New York Police Department officer working on an assignment in Italy and is not that of an FBI agent."

In July 1965, the Los Angeles office became aware of published reports that Hudson might be playing an agent in a movie called "The Seven Mile," a kidnap-thriller co-starring Britt Ekland. According to a July 16, 1969, memo from the Los Angeles office to Hoover,

office files contained "several references to ROCK HUDSON, alleging he was a homosexual or bisexual."

A July 28, 1969, memo with the Washington FBI headquarters summarized the movie plot, say it "reflects favorably and accurately" on the agency.

Jerry Oppenheimer, a Washington writer who is co-authoring Hudson biography, said the int- never was made.