

Black Bag

A YEAR AGO the New Statesman published an exposé of the work of one Gerald Gable and several "black bag jobs"—more bluntly, breaking and entering jobs—carried out for security agencies like Special Branch. The New Statesman, no friend of the security agencies, complained that Britain's intelligence agencies were using material gathered clandestinely "to transmit McCarthyite smears through the news media."

Author Bruce Page identified Gable as a leading reporter for the London Weekend Television "London Programme," and called him a reporter of considerable standing among other journalists. We older statesmen know quite a bit more about Gable than the youngsters at Great Turnstile. Gable, once a humble electrician, has an impressive housebreaking record connected with his other activities.

He now boasts of his connections with "top level security sources." In 1963 his connections with the forces of the law were rather more mundane: a cell in Hornsey police station. (See London Weekend Thieves, this page.) His brain is occupied by a fantasy world of Young Liberals and Palestinians and ex-SAS officers and German terrorists. In 1963 he was more paranoid: he suspected Nazis everywhere.

Gable is evidently a contributor to the scandal sheet, Searchlight. In one issue an anonymous author describes with inside knowledge the motives of the housebreaking gang led by the intrepid Gable into Irving's London apartment: "Irving," said the article, "suddenly seemed to be in touch with people who could give him or direct him to Nazi files that had been unobtainable to other genuine historians since the end of the war..."

Focalpoint asked London Weekend Television to comment on the Gerald Gable they employ: might he by any chance be the same man referred to in the Evening Standard article of November 28, 1963. The head of LWT's legal service replied: "I am not prepared to comment."

Crime Note:

A few weeks ago, two middle-aged strangers were seen reconnoitering the staircase outside David Irving's Mayfair home. Around mid-day two brawny young men smashed down the front door. However they had not had the brains to wait until the apartment was empty. Irving gave chase, joined by one of the armed motorcycle patrols permanently posted outside the nearby hotel where El-Al aircrews stay, but lost the men in Oxford Street. Damage amounted to £1,500. ■