Twitter Thread by William Gillis ■

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@rechelon

The FBI arrests local cops surprisingly frequently, but this often looks more like a genteel gang applying pressure on a trashy gang than anything to cheer. Let me give an example from the 2008 RNC, and how the FBI pressured the local cops to raid/torture/etc us for them...

> Let\u2019s not forget that the former #1 and #2 at LA County Sheriff are doing time in Federal prison for interfering with an FBI investigation.
>
> — Chad Loder (@chadloder) January 14, 2021

Ramsey County sheriff Bob Fletcher has been in the, ah, news recently, but back in 2008 he was the arch villain of the RNC protests, raiding all my "co-conspirators," doing interrogations where he acted like he was on 24, and screaming to the media about terrorism.

Because Fletcher is a quintessential dipshit chud you may be tempted to believe this was all him going off half-cocked. Indeed this became kinda the media narrative, insofar as they pushed back on him at all.

The reality however is more that Fletcher was a useful tool to the FBI

First, it's important to note that the RNC (and the DNC) as a rule donate massive piles of money to local police forces at their conventions to *insure* them against lawsuits. This was the case in 2008, I don't remember the exact figure but on the order of 10 million USD.

Now the Welcoming Committee was an anarchist project to organize protest infrastructure and was aboveground and open to the public. This meant we had to deal with multiple undercovers / informants from jurisdictions often competing with each other. You just make them wash dishes!

Despite the FBI largely trying to pretend it had nothing do with the repression that came down on us some of the most pernicious infiltrators were provided to local cops via the FBI. And of course we caught FBI agents semi-secretly overseeing the raids on our houses.

But the real thing to note is that *before* Bob Fletcher flagrantly violated constitutional rights six ways from sunday, his right-hand man (even best man at his wedding) got arrested by the FBI in a targeted corruption sting.

I forget the exact details of the sting and don't feel like googling for twenty minutes, but more or less they did the shit where they run a car with broken headlights in front of his car, filled with drugs/cash, and record him doing as every cop does -- grabbing a bunch of it.

Not to be like "this is unfair to the poor cops" but this sort of sting could work on pretty much ANY cop because every cop is a selfish criminal and will grab free cash from someone when they think they can. The point is that the FBI targeted Bob Fletcher's right-hand bro.

And indeed, *kept* him under charges -- and I think even in detention -- *through* the RNC.

This kinda pressure is how the FBI instrumentalizes local cops into tools of repression. Fletcher was a chud, but to be frank, he was a *selfish* chud. The FBI forced him to take risks.

This now historical example is such a perfect microcosm of the FBI and local cops imo. Local cops are selfish and reactive. It's possible for anarchists to be too annoying for them to want to deal with. The FBI however, disciplines local cops *to keep them serving the state.*

Everyone has an example of cops being like "wtf you little shits... wait, fuck having to deal with the hassle of going after you" whether it's cops refusing to climb up after graffiti artists or cops refusing to go out into the 2008 pdx blizzard to stop the rioting bloc.

Anyway, this is all the central shit to remember when you see the FBI arresting local cops for standard corrupt/authoritarian cop shit. They could arrest pretty much EVERY cop for that shit, so we should remember that they have specific reasons for going after specific cops.