

## 2 charged in probe of fake SEPTA passes

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FBI agents yesterday arrested a Drexel Hill man and the co-owner of a Northeast Philadelphia printing shop on charges of defrauding the federal government and SEPTA by counterfeiting and selling monthly Transpasses.

An FBI spokesman also alleged that the arrests had disrupted a scheme to print counterfeit state motor-vehicle inspection stickers and U.S. postage stamps.

Arrested yesterday morning after a

search of Conestoga Press, 520 Knorr St., were George Capewell, 40, of the 9300 block of Annapolis Road in Northeast Philadelphia, the shop's co-owner, and James Dagney, 40, of 1100 block of Cornell Avenue, Drexel Hill.

A spokesman for John L. Hogan, special agent in charge of the Philadelphia FBI office, and U.S. Attorney Peter Vaira said agents who took search warrants to the printing shop found several thousand fake SEPTA passes and the equipment used to print them.

Since early in 1980, when counterfeit Transpasses first surfaced, SEPTA has been losing \$1 million in fares each month, so much money that the authority has considered abolishing the program.

A rider purchases either an \$8.25 weekly Transpass or a \$32 monthly pass, which entitles him to unlimited rides.

The FBI spokesman would not say how much money in fake passes was involved in the scheme, nor whether the arrests of the two men ended the investigation.

Capewell was arrested at the printing

shop after the search. Dagney was arrested yesterday morning in West Philadelphia.

Both men were charged with mail fraud and conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government. The FBI investigated the case because SEPTA is funded in part by the federal Department of Transportation.

After the phony passes, apparently sold at discount prices, first appeared on the street in May, more than 300 persons were arrested for attempting to use them on SEPTA vehicles. The real passes are sold at SEPTA offices, stations and in banks.

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