For decades, the Tennessee Valley Authority bought and traded mineral rights from energy companies in Illinois. During that time, from the 1960s into the 1980s, the TVA also signed deals with farmers who sold mineral rights and promised to sell their land if it was needed for mining. But as Kari Lydersen reports for Energy News Network, many of those families regret those deals, saying they never imagined the situation would play out as it has: landowners forced to sell their farms to companies profiting handsomely off coal.

Rebecca Clarren dug through databases and tribal court files for her report, co-written with Jason Begay, on sexual discrimination, harassment and assault in tribal workplaces. Their piece for InvestigateWest, “Confronting the ‘Native Harvey Weinsteins,’” which was also run by The Nation, showed the challenges in investigating such violations. Part of the problem, Clarren and Begay report, stems from the federal government’s decision to exempt tribes from Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Fewer than 20 tribes have created their own legal codes to fill this void.

Marc Perrusquia’s new book, “A Spy In Canaan: How the FBI Used a Famous Photographer to Infiltrate the Civil Rights Movement,” (Melville House) tells how a long-running newspaper investigation uncovered civil rights photographer Ernest Withers’ double life as a paid FBI informant. The book reveals that Withers helped the FBI monitor a broad range of individuals and organizations active in the civil rights, peace and labor movements in Memphis between 1958 and 1976. That included Martin Luther King Jr.’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Communist Party, the Black Panthers, the Congress of Racial Equality and the Southern Student Organizing Committee. The Washington Post called the book “a triumph of investigative reporting.”

The Investigative Reporting Program at the University of California, Berkeley, teamed with FRONTLINE to tell the story of Guatemalan teens forced to work at an Ohio egg farm. The investigation exposed a criminal network that exploits undocumented minors, companies that profit from forced labor and the role of the U.S. government. “Trafficked in America” began airing April 24 on PBS stations.

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