

By J. F. TERHORST

CIA's Disregard for Law

Washington — If America ever succumbs to a secret police apparatus, it will happen through a loyal agency like the CIA and the well-meaning officials acting in the name of national security.

That is the subliminal message of the Rockefeller Commission on CIA activities. It is a particularly chilling message because the commission did not set out to scuttle the CIA but to save it.

That so many things have gone wrong, moreover, is personally perturbing to President Ford, a onetime congressional CIA overseer.

There is no evidence, thankfully, that the CIA condoned physical torture or the making of lampshades out of human skin as the Nazi SS. But some of its covert work brings to mind the amoral, subtle and devilish activities associated with the SS, the Soviet KGB and the secret police of other totalitarian societies.

Leaving aside the question of CIA involvement in political assassinations or murders, which the Rockefeller panel declined to touch, there is overwhelming evidence of need for internal reform and close supervision of the CIA if the country is to escape domination by those who would restrict liberty in the guise of saving it.

Lest this sound like a harsh judgment from one who, along with Ford and the Rockefeller Commission, believes in the need for covert intelligence gathering, consider only what the commission thinks must be stopped within the U.S.

In brief, that includes unlawful or unchecked CIA maintenance of files on 300,000 individuals and organizations, infiltration of political groups, mail openings, monitoring of overseas phone calls, wiretapping, burglaries, dealings with the underworld, bribery and testing of lethal drugs on unsuspecting citizens.

An Agency Out of Control

That is not a pretty picture of an organization of highly educated, highly paid people whose duty is to preserve a country dedicated to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is rather the portrait of an agency out of control, a portrait drawn sorrowfully by a friendly commission.

Yet it is not fair to indict the CIA without also indicting a federal establishment that permitted these excesses.

The agency, for example wanted to check out what the Soviet KGB had learned in drug experimentation. Could the behavior of a foreign leader be influenced by chemical manipulation? Was there a truth serum the CIA didn't know about? So the CIA surreptitiously began spending tax money on administering drugs like LSD to innocent persons, some of them government employees. One jumped to New York while being watched by CIA agents. Two agents were caught by CIA field office, according to the New York Times. The President told the to know whether the CIA was spying on its own people.

The CIA had violated the law. As far back as 1954, the CIA had violated the laws of the Justice Department: that law violations by CIA personnel will be handled only by CIA. One result is that there is no record of prosecution of any CIA agent for any crime that would bring government sleuths down on any private citizen. Hitler's SS men had the same kind of privilege. The KGB has it in Russia today.

Going on for 20 Years

That such things can happen here is mute testimony to an even more pernicious situation. What the Rockefeller report talks about without ever using the words is an atmosphere of encouragement and tolerance that has existed at the highest levels of government for 20 years. Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon wanted to find out things but were afraid to do so openly. So they went to the CIA, rightly or wrongly cloaking their interests with a national security label.

That apparently was easy to do, because the leaders of Congress, except for an interest in the budget figures, rarely demanded a CIA accounting. Most of the supposed CIA overseers on Capitol Hill took the position that "if it's a secret, we don't want to know about it." Whenever a congressman, a reporter or a private citizen would raise a question about some intelligence activity, the CIA or the White House would turn it aside with the line that "since it's secret, we can't talk."

Small wonder that CIA officials got the notion that they were a law unto themselves, that anything goes — so long as it could be excused on grounds of national security. Our Presidents and lawmakers let that happen, even encouraged it. By our laxity, we let them get away with it. We do not need to wait for the more detailed analyses of the House and Senate committees on the CIA to tell us one thing: We have been "good Germans" too long.

He'd Restore Thorpe Wins

Washington, June 15 (UPI) — Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Indian affairs subcommittee, said today that he would join in seeking restoration of the Olympic records of the famed Indian athlete Jim Thorpe. Abourezk said that stripping Thorpe of pentathlon and decathlon Olympic gold

medals won in the 1912 games was "one of the most blatant injustices perpetrated against an individual Indian that I know of." Thorpe, who died in 1953, was deprived of the medals because he had received expense money for playing baseball during a summer vacation while attending the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania.



Vice President Rockefeller



President Ford