

Ford's Timetable On the CIA Report

By DAVID C. MARTIN

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford will act on the Rockefeller Commission recommendations for ending unlawful CIA domestic activities within two months and will seek to have all CIA probes wrapped up by Sept. 1, an informed White House source predicts.

Meantime, another source said the chairman of the Senate intelligence committee is prepared to endorse in a Senate speech today one of the commission's major recommendations --

creation of a joint congressional panel to oversee the Central Intelligence Agency on a continuing basis.

But the chairman, Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, criticized some of the commission's other recommendations yesterday, saying they did not go far enough in specifically outlawing improper domestic activities.

"What's needed is specific prohibitions in the law with penalties attached to violations of the law," Church said in a public television interview.

Church was one of very few members of Congress to react immediately to the report.

Church also is said to believe that his 11-member Senate panel investigating the CIA and other intelligence agencies will need to continue its work through the end of the year.

Ford's timetable for dealing with the Rockefeller findings calls for a decision within 30 days on what to do about the still-secret material on alleged CIA assassination plots, according to the White House source. The source said he could not predict what action Ford would take or what his response would be to the commission's recommendations to prevent future domestic abuses.

The recommendations were part of a 300-page report released yesterday which found that the CIA conducted a number of "plainly unlawful" domestic operations, including opening of mail and surveillance of U.S. citizens, which violated the rights of Americans.

The commission revealed for the first time that the CIA had administered drugs to unsuspecting human guinea pigs, monitored long-distance phone calls, infiltrated a congressional campaign and contributed its secret funds to a White House political project.

Some of these activities, which have all been termi-

Continued on Page 52

Ford & the CIA

Continued from Page 5

ated, "were initiated or ordered by presidents, either directly or indirectly," the commission found. However, the eight-member panel concluded that the great majority of the CIA's domestic activities comply with the law.

A Justice Department spokesman said officials have begun an informal review of laws which might apply to both the domestic violations and the alleged assassination plots. The spokesman noted that federal laws are restricted by the standard five-year statute of limitations, which apparently would rule out prosecutions for any acts committed during the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations and the first year of the Nixon administration.

The Rockefeller Commission report, which is the result of a five-month investigation ordered by Ford, praised the CIA's over-all record of operating within

the law and said the agency is needed to enable the president to make sound international decisions.

The Disclosures

But the report described in detail a number of already-reported operations such as the gathering of files on antiwar radicals and other domestic dissidents. And it also described these previously undisclosed domestic activities:

—“A clearly illegal” program to test the influence of drugs on humans, including the administration of LSD to persons without their knowledge. In one case, a man given LSD later committed suicide.

—The infiltration of a CIA agent into the campaign of an unidentified congressional candidate. The agent furnished the CIA with reports of behind the scenes campaign activities.

—Monitoring long-distance phone calls between the United States and Latin America in an effort to identify narcotics traffickers.

—The collection of information on long-distance phone calls between Western Hemisphere countries, including the United States and two unidentified foreign countries.

—The contribution of more than \$33,000 from the CIA's secret budget for payment of stationery and postage costs for replies to persons who wrote President Richard M. Nixon after the 1970 invasion of Cambodia.

The commission report makes no recommendations for legal action, but notes that some of the agency's domestic operations may have violated constitutional rights of free speech and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures. Some of the activities also may have violated federal wiretap laws and statutes protecting the mails.

The previously reported CIA domestic operations confirmed and explained by the commission report included:

—A 20-year program of mail surveillance between

the United States and the Soviet Union which involved the handling of up to 4.3 million pieces of mail a year and opened as many as 13,000 letters a year.

—A special intelligence unit known as Operation CHAOS which, beginning in 1967, “became a repository for large quantities of information on the domestic activities of American citizens.”

—A 1967 program which “at first monitored, but later infiltrated, dissident organizations in the Washington, D.C., area to determine

if the groups planned any activities against CIA or other government installations.”

—Five investigations, some involving wiretaps and other physical surveillance, against unidentified newsmen suspected of receiving leaks of classified information.

—Investigations of agency personnel which included such “invalid” techniques as break-ins, wiretaps and bug-

In all, the commission found that the CIA maintained intelligence files on 57,000 Americans, plus some 800,00 active and inactive security files on individuals connected with the agency in some way, a majority of whom are U.S. citizens. The agency also has security files on 75 current members of Congress, according to the report.

The commission said it could find “no evidence that the CIA participated in the Watergate break-in or in the post Watergate cover-up.” However, the report stated that CIA responses to the requests of various investigators for information “were either incomplete or delayed and some materials that may or may not have contained relevant information were destroyed.”

The presidential panel also determined that some members of the agency's medical staff who participated in the preparation of a psychological profile on Daniel Ellsberg knew that one of its purposes was to support a public attack on Ellsberg.

In addition to a joint congressional oversight panel, the commission recommended that:

—A separate oversight panel be established within the executive branch.

—Portions of the CIA budget be made public.

—CIA directors be limited to a term of 10 years and prior intelligence experience should not be a requirement for the job.

—Legislation should be enacted making it a crime for CIA employes or former employes to divulge classified information.