

Antiwar Group Snoops, Lurks at Laird's Home

By Jim Mann

Washington Post staff writer
Dressed in Sherlock
Holmes caps, trenchcoats
and sunglasses, 11 members
of SANE, an antiwar group,
snooped, lurked, crept and
tiptoed yesterday outside
the Bethesda home of Sec-
retary of Defense Melvin
Laird.

They carried tape record-
ers, cameras, toy telescopes
and notebooks. They jotted
down license plate numbers,
hid behind newspapers and
pumped neighbors for infor-
mation.

"You don't know if they
get any subversive litera-
ture, do you?" Sanford Gott-
lieb, executive director of

the Citizens Organization
for a Sane World, asked by-
standers.

It was all street theater to
protest the surveillance of
peace groups by Army intel-
ligence.

Laird was at the Pentagon
during the 40-minute perfor-
mance, a Defense spokesman
said. His dog, and several
persons — apparently mem-
bers of the family—were ob-
served inside the house, a
two-story grey-brick struc-
ture just south of River
Road near the Kenwood
Country Club.

No uniformed police ap-
peared, and only two plain-
clothesmen were spotted
standing watch outside.

For a while, it appeared
that the protest would turn
into a form of newsmen's
solitaire. It was scheduled
to begin at 11 a.m. and at
least 15 forewarned report-
ers and photographers ar-
rived on time. The demon-
strators didn't, and the
photographers began to
photograph each other.

"They chicken out again!"
asked 13-year-old Michael
McCabe, standing two doors
up the street with his dog.
Michael and his friends had
expected a protest at Laird's
home last summer, but it
never materialized.

Finally, two cars full of
protectors appeared, and the
photographers applauded.

Eleven would-be sleuths
popped out and placed the
home under surveillance.

Two of them set up a
"SANE spy scope" on a
tripod across the street
from Laird's home.

"See anything suspicious
here?" asked Gottlieb, as
the protesters deployed in
the street. No one ap-
proached the Laird's front
door.

Gottlieb claimed SANE re-
cently discovered Army in-
telligence had been using a
mail "cover" to put itself on
the SANE mailing list.

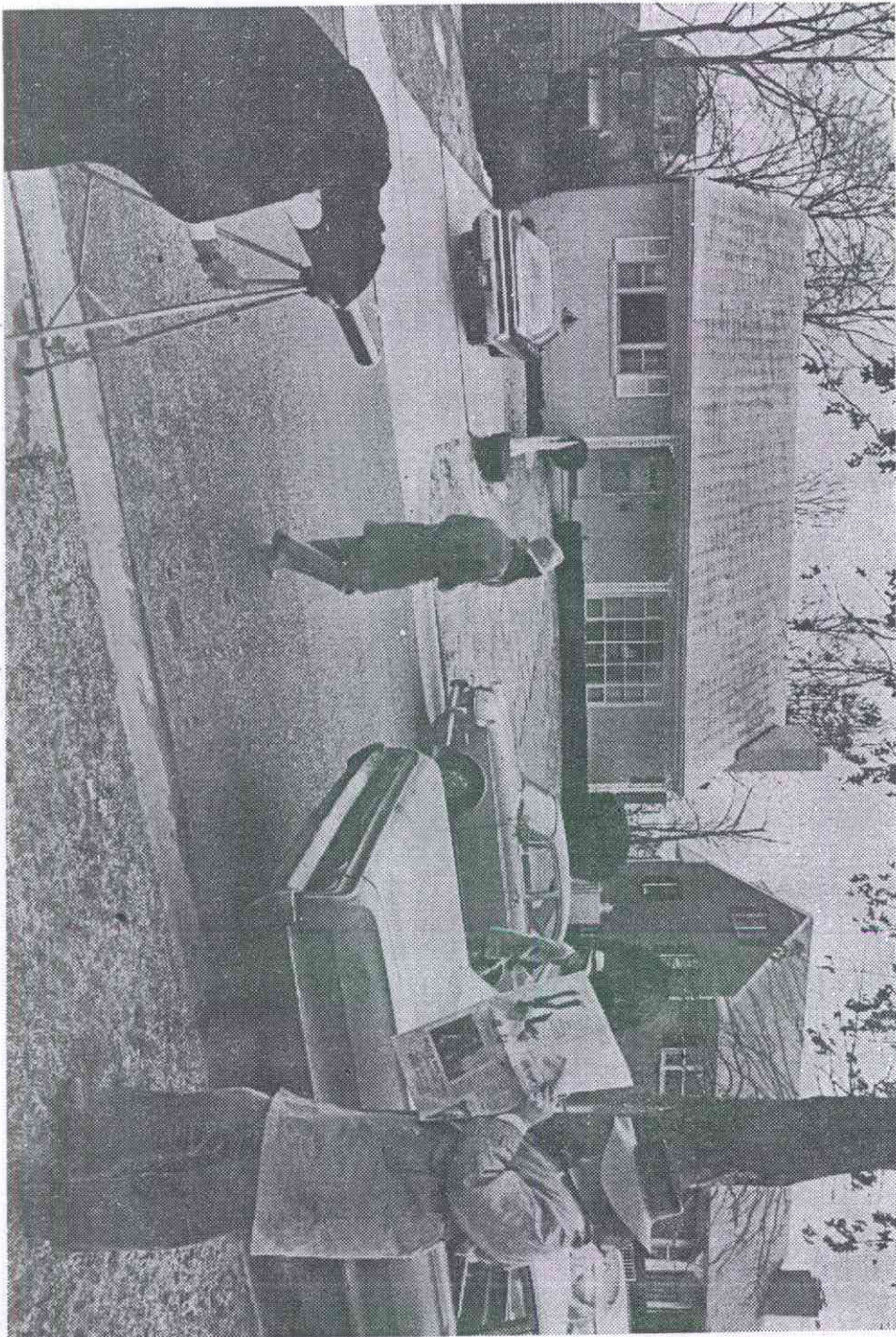
The address was R. Allan
Lee Associates, Box 922,
Alexandria, Va. Its subscrip-
tion had not been paid for

two years, according to
SANE.

Gottlieb said that Ralph
Stein, the former head of
the "radical desk" in the
Army's counterintelligence
analysis branch, has admit-
ted to SANE that he person-
ally signed up as R. Allan
Lee.

Stein could not be reached
for confirmation yesterday,
and the Pentagon said it could
not obtain information to re-
spond to the allegation until
today. In December, Laird
ordered a shake-up of military
intelligence personnel after it
was charged that they were
spying on domestic peace
groups and black militants.

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Members of SANE go through a cloak-and-dagger routine in front of Defense Secretary Melvin Laird's home in Bethesda.

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