

CIA Aided NSA on Draft Deferments

By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

It has now leaked out that the Central Intelligence Agency used not only cash under the table but draft deferments to subvert the National Student Association.

The threat of the draft hung heavily over the heads of NSA officers, according to their own admissions behind closed doors, unless they followed the CIA line in their student activities.

The CIA would send an NSA representative to Vietnam, for example, and expect him on his return to oppose the anti-war movement on the campuses.

The draft deferments were obtained through CIA White House channels until last year when Vice President Humphrey's office made the arrangements.

All this is revealed in detailed, handwritten notes, made available to us, of the NSA's secret staff meetings. The notes were kept by educational director Larry Rubin, who is resigning in protest over NSA's failure to make a clean breast of the CIA affair.

Ed Schwartz, the vice president in charge of national affairs, brought up the draft question at a staff meeting attended by 30 people on Feb. 3. This was five days before the NSA-CIA controversy hit the headlines. However, the offi-

cers knew Ramparts magazine was coming out with the story and were discussing what to do about it.

Agonizing Reappraisal

"You must understand our bind," said Schwartz. "It is clear now that the CIA has gotten our draft deferments for us in the past. If we blast the CIA in our statements, we will lose our deferments. We can't have an organization without a staff, and we can't have a staff without deferments."

"I thought you said the CIA did not get our deferments for us this year," interrupted Rubin.

"Yes," acknowledged Schwartz, "Phil Sherburne (last year's NSA president) worked it out with Hubert Humphrey, but our information tells us that if we blast the CIA, we'll still lose our deferments."

Schwartz then produced a proposed press statement that admitted next to nothing about the CIA link.

"Dammit, Ed," protested Al Milano, head of the Student Government Information Service, "every staff member said we should directly admit to the relationship."

"We're lying," agreed Rubin. "We do know the relationship existed," Schwartz, noting that some of the deferred staff members were not present, argued: "How can we make de-

isions that will affect their future?"

At the same meeting, he also confided that the CIA had given up to \$5000, plus credit cards and free travel, to NSA's foreign representatives.

"I used to wonder why the international people lived so high," he said. "Now I know."

Four days later Eugene Groves, NSA president, returned from a hurried European trip.

"Don't worry, boys," he reassured the staff at a Feb. 13 meeting. "We'll all save our draft exemptions. I'm working it out with some people."

Katzenbach to Rescue

Groves disclosed that he had been "in communication" with Under Secretary of State Katzenbach. There was a "possibility," Groves said, the CIA might be persuaded to make a public admission that it had financed NSA. However, he warned this would mean they could not tell the "whole truth" to the press.

"The staff agreed that no matter what," broke in Rubin from the back of the room, "we want to tell the whole truth."

Then he demanded of Groves: "First, I want to say this to your face: Why did you lie to us about your own knowledge?"

"We had to get Pulvers (NSA representative Roger Pulvers) out of Poland," replied Groves, "before any

word was spread that he was CIA tainted."

"Ed Schwartz said we had to lie to protect our money," retorted Rubin. "I want to know about our present complicity."

"Wait, Gene!" broke in Milano. "You've lied to us. We don't want that kind of — any more."

Groves buried his head in his hands.

"Look," he pleaded, "I really don't know what to say. I won't apologize."

NSA's top officers continued to huddle with the CIA throughout the controversy while they put out statements claiming only incidental ties to the CIA. Indeed, the statements were prepared at the secret meetings which were held at the Marriott Motel and the home of CIA agent Robert Kiley, both in Washington.

When Rubin learned of these meetings, he threatened to resign. Schwartz on Feb. 27 called Rubin into his CIA office.

"You're a moral puritan, which now makes you a moral pervert," snapped Schwartz. He warned that Rubin's demand for full public disclosure could end up causing NSA staffers to die in Vietnam.

"If keeping the CIA meetings secret means I'll save one person's deferment," he added, "I'll keep those meetings secret."