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CIA Subsidy Defended

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., said Sunday night the CIA's secret subsidizing of American student groups was strikingly successful as an anti-Communist maneuver — and the secrecy was an essential element in this success.

Jackson said the support of the American student groups as

a counter to Communist domination of international youth meetings had to be covert when it began because "if we hadn't worked through some of the more liberal, and even leftist, groups the effectiveness of the American position abroad could have been disastrous."

And, Jackson reasoned, direct, open assistance for such liberal groups by the State Department or the U.S. Information Agency would have been impossible to obtain in the early 1950s because of the virulent anti-Communist atmosphere then being created by the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis.

"It is my understanding that

in connection with the educational program that the State Department was anxious that this be done by the CIA," Jackson said.

Jackson, a member of the Senate panel which oversees CIA activity, discussed the current controversy over CIA financing of various private groups.

The discussion was on Metro-media's television-radio program "Opinion in the Capital."

Jackson said he is sure President Johnson "had some general knowledge," of the CIA's secret subsidy policies.

Jackson said he has no direct

knowledge on this point but asserted: "However, all four presidents going back to Harry S. Truman, (Dwight D.) Eisenhower, (John F.) Kennedy and Johnson do have a responsibility under the statute as chairman of the National Security Council to know in general as to what's going on. I'm unable to say whether President Johnson knew specifically.

"But I'm sure that all of the presidents I've referred to had some general knowledge of this matter."

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