



Those CIA 'Watchdogs'

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(Today's column is by Drew Pearson and his associate, Jack Anderson.)
Washington.

It will be vociferously denied, but some of the South's most vocal opponents of civil rights have either overlooked or sanctioned under-the-table CIA aid to help Negro voting registration and militant civil rights groups.

The CIA money was funneled through private foundations right under the nose of the Central Intelligence Watchdog Committee headed by Sen. Dick Russell (D-Ga.) and Rep. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.). Both have made speeches and led filibusters denouncing the civil rights movement. Yet they permitted CIA funds to go to civil rights groups in the same manner that CIA money went to student groups.

The disclosure emphasizes the importance of the drive led by Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) and Sen. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) to put members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the CIA Watchdog group, now composed solely of members from the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. This drive was defeated last fall when Russell emphatically proclaimed that his committee knew what CIA was doing. Obviously it didn't.

The main conduit for CIA money to help the Negro voter registration drive was the Southern Regional Council, which received \$60,000 of CIA funds in 1963. The money was channeled through the New World Foundation.

In 1962, \$6,000 of CIA funds went to the Southern Regional Council through the Aaron E. Norman Fund. In 1962, the Georgia Council on Human Relations also got \$2,600 of CIA money from the Norman Fund.

The National Student Assn., which received massive contributions of CIA money, was also encouraged by the CIA to push voter registration drives in the South.

Justification for using CIA funds was to quiet disastrous foreign publicity caused by civil rights violence.

The Norman Fund, incidentally, has also contributed to CORE's scholarship and educational fund, the Lawyers' Constitutional Defense Committee, and the League for Industrial Democracy, all vigorous civil rights advocates.

Note: Fund officials deny any knowledge of CIA financial ties; nevertheless they are a fact.

A drive to head off the first federal Constitutional Convention in U. S. history has been started in legislatures which have already voted for such a convention. The drive is led by Illinois State Sen. Paul Simon of Troy, Ill., home state of a man who has chiefly sponsored the convention, Sen. Everett Dirksen, who wants to nullify the Supreme Court's one man-one vote ruling.

Though Dirksen's home legislature passed a resolution favoring a Constitutional Convention in order to overturn the Supreme Court, the Illinois legislature has now found that the Supreme Court was right and that the equalization of representation in the legislature has worked for Illinois' general benefit. It has also, incidentally, increased Republican representation in the legislature, having given more votes to the suburbs around Chicago.

Despite this, Dirksen helped to sneak resolutions through 32 state legislatures favoring the convention. Never before in its 180-year history, has the nation held a convention to change the Constitution; nor has it come this close. Only two more states are needed to get the required number of legislatures on record.

This is why Sen. Simon, a member of the Illinois legislature, which has already voted for the convention, has introduced a resolution to "rescind the previous action."

"Under area representation in the past half century, gross inequalities in representation became part of the American scene," writes Sen. Simon. "In Nevada, 8 per cent of the population controlled one house of the legislature; in California, one district had 6,038,771 voters and another district 14,294. Are we serious about wanting to return to such a system?"

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