

CIA Linkup Is Explained By Secretary

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A secretary said yesterday that when she worked for former White House aide and Commerce Secretary Peter G. Peterson she was on detail by the Central Intelligence Agency to work for the White House.

Mary M. Wengrzynek said Peterson was aware that she had been detailed by the CIA, and she said she never reported back to the CIA on his activities. Peterson agreed that he knew of their CIA connection.

White House officials yesterday said it is not uncommon to add to the staff of the White House by using persons assigned by other agencies.

Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi (D-Mich.), chairman of the House intelligence committee, said the practice raises problems related to the integrity of government budgets.

The House committee is known to be looking into the possibility that the White House was infiltrated by CIA employees who might have passed information back to the agency.

"The whole thing is obviously gray," the source said. He said some CIA employees detailed to the White House have acknowl-

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edged informally giving information to the CIA on White House activities.

Peterson, who left the government in 1973 to become chairman of Lehman Bros., a New York investment banking firm, said last night that he was told when he entered the White House that some employees would be detailed to him from other agencies because the White House did not have the budget to staff his office.

Peterson filled the newly created positions of assistant to the President for international economic policy, and executive director of the Council on International Economic Policy.

"When it came to secretaries," Peterson said, "I had an assistant who said there is this very good secretary working for the National Security Council. Her boss had been transferred. I was aware that she was from the CIA, and she had been detailed. I didn't know there was anything unusual about it."

Peterson added that his other secretary had been detailed by the State Department.

Roderick Hills, a White House counsel, said the practice of detailing personnel from one agency to another is common and is no more "sinister" when the CIA does it than when any other agency does.

Any suggestion that the CIA has been infiltrating other agencies, such as the White House, is "utter nonsense," Hills said.

A CIA spokesman said other CIA secretaries have been detailed in unspecified instances, and said the process is not mysterious. A common reason is the need for a secretary with security clearance, or a desire by a White House aide to continue a previous working relationship, the spokesman said.

Miss Wengrzynek, who said she is currently detailed by the CIA to work as a secretary at the NSC, said she did not know why she has been detailed. "That's beyond my scope," she said.

She said she assumes Peterson chose her because of her skills. When Peterson was named Secretary of Commerce in 1972, "He took

me with him because he liked me," she said.

No consideration was given to continuing with Peterson when he left the government to join Lehman Bros., she said.

"I'm on detail for the CIA. When I worked for Mr. Peterson, I was on detail to the White House," she said.

She said other agencies -- including the Defense and State departments -- also detail personnel, including secretaries, to the White House.

"I swear to God I didn't report back to the CIA," she said.