

A G-Rated Look at the CIA

Post 6/14/75

By Judy Bachrach

Daniel Schorr is telling our children about the CIA. Daniel Schorr, Schorr, whom former CIA head Richard Helms called an S.O.B. and a few other descriptive names. Schorr, one the subject of an FBI investigation—ostensibly because the Nixon administration he was probing wanted to offer him a job.

Yes, Daniel Schorr, unbeloved of the agency he covers, is hosting a half-hour

CBS show today at noon on Channel 9 called "What's the CIA All About?"

Since the program is intended for children, we get very, shall-we-say, truncated versions of the recovered Russian submarine episode (missing: one Howard Hughes); the Bay of Pigs fiasco; the Gary Powers U-2 incident (missing: Eisenhower's denial); the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"If you were President of the United States," says Schorr, "you'd want all the

information you could get..." Some of this information evidently includes reports on "the health of (foreign) leaders."

Recent reports suggest that the CIA may have been involved in plots against foreign leaders. But this is given fairly short shrift by our correspondent. To be sure there is a brief allusion to the late Salvador Allende and there is an angered quotation from Sen. Frank Church (D-Idahom). But Schorr tells the nation's children that "most Americans agree" that we need some covert operations, while "others say" secret operations violate the basic principles on which this nation was founded. What is Schorr's conclusion after all his research?

"We don't know the answer, he says, who would have thought the scourge of the CIA would retract his claws before the tots? Was Daniel Schorr the right man for this job? Has he, perhaps, gone swaybacked in his efforts not to corrupt the young? "A commission headed by Vice President Rockefeller said the CIA had broken some laws," says Schorr. Yes, well if that's the case should we disband the law-breakers? Should we arrest them?

A child might wonder about such things.