

Professor's Alleged C.I.A. Ties Stir Controversy at Brooklyn College

A political scientist at Brooklyn College, said by a fellow-teacher to be associated with the Central Intelligence Agency, may face dismissal if the college administration decides that his academic integrity has been compromised.

Michael I. Selzer, an assistant professor, was named as having such an affiliation by his brother-in-law, Prof. Michael H. Kahana, at a meeting of the appointments committee that will ultimately decide his suitability for tenure.

At a meeting of the political science department last month, Professor Selzer read a statement that many colleagues understood as an acknowledgement of a C.I.A. connection.

Asked about such a connection by a reporter, Professor Selzer, who is a specialist in psychological profiles of political extremists, declared: "At no point have I ever said that I have or have had any association with the C.I.A."

An ad hoc committee has been formed by Prof. Morton Berkowitz, the department chairman, to study the propriety of relationships between the academic community and the C.I.A. It is slated to make a recommendation regarding Professor Selzer on Wednesday.

Recommendation to Be Studied

The committee will study the recommendations of professional organizations and the American Civil Liberties Union and the findings of a Senate committee report on the C.I.A., according to Professor Berkowitz.

According to Professor Berkowitz, Professor Selzer acknowledged a connection with the C.I.A. at the departmental meeting and also said that Professor Selzer had asserted that he had cleared his position with a member of the college administration.

Professor Berkowitz said that Professor Selzer had refused to submit a copy of the statement that he had delivered at the departmental meeting, even though he had been asked to do so on three separate occasions.

Last October, Professor Selzer received

a grant from the Ford Foundation for research on psychological records of Belgian and Danish collaborators with the Nazi occupiers of their countries.

According to Professor Kahana, Professor Selzer, who has been at Brooklyn College full-time for four years, first became involved with the C.I.A. last spring.

"He told me his work for the C.I.A. was only confined to Europe," Mr. Kahana said, "but this is creating a moral question of whether a member of the academic community should work for the C.I.A. at all."

Comment by College Spokesman

A college spokesman said many faculty members in the political science department felt that Professor Selzer had "misrepresented" himself in gathering information that they assumed was for Professor Selzer's own research, but was allegedly actually for the C.I.A. Prof. David Abbott said that Professor Selzer was using his academic credentials to seek out contacts abroad.

"The alleged affiliation of Professor Selzer with the C.I.A. has been called to the attention of President John Kneeller," the college spokesman said, adding: "Dr. Kneeller intends to meet with Professor Selzer and other faculty members to determine the course of action."

Dr. Kneeller, who only recently learned of the reported affiliation, deplores any possibility of misrepresentation by any faculty member.

Professor Selzer, who is 36 years old, said:

"I have had extensive relationships with other governments in the course of my research, but not the C.I.A."

"I have heard that a member of the political science department has called one of my contacts overseas and instructed him not to deal with me because I am a C.I.A. agent."

Professor Kahana, referring to himself, said he had he waited until November to make known to the department Professor Selzer's alleged C.I.A. affiliation, be-

cause he was trying to "talk him out of it—he is my brother-in-law." Professor Selzer, a graduate of Oxford University and the City University of New York, is a co-author of a book about Nazi war criminals that uses projective psychological tests as the basis for interpreting their characters.

According to Professor Kahana, the book, "The Nuremberg Mind," was completed before Professor Selzer began his alleged association with the C.I.A., although some faculty members speculate that Professor Selzer's alleged connection with the agency involves some kind of exchange of information pertaining to Professor Selzer's ongoing psychohistorical research.

Professor Selzer said: "This is McCarthyism of the left. There is no way I can prove that I am not a member of the C.I.A. If I am dismissed or denied tenure on those grounds, I'll fight them for as long as it takes."