

## CIA's Personnel Problem: Old Spies Never Die, Either

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WASHINGTON (CDN) — His spies are getting old and he has too many of them.

This candid statement was made by James R. Schlesinger, the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in secret testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"We have increased rapidly the number of people in the 45 to 69 category," said Schlesinger in his testimony, which he made public today. "Our staff is aging. Something on the order of 70 per cent of our people are over 45, as opposed to about 50 per cent for other agencies."

As a result, he said, it has become increasingly dif-

ficult to move up younger people in the CIA to positions of responsibility.

He said that he would like to be in a position to bring on some additional people "for the purposes of further enlivening the agency." But he has a problem because there are too many people in the operational areas who in the past have served overseas.

The surplus has come about, he said, because of "a reduction in a number of exercises."

Another reason, which Schlesinger did not deny, was suggested by Sen. Symington (D-Mo.), the acting

committee chairman. He said he imagined that the agency was placing "increased reliance on technical collection (or intelligence information) as against people in the countries themselves."

To prevent abuse of the CIA retirement system, Congress in 1964 placed a ceiling on the number of employes who might be retired from the agency at any one time. The ceiling was 400 a year until 1969 and has been 800 a year since then.

The 800 quota already has been used up this year, however, and Schlesinger has asked Congress for authority to retire an additional 2100.